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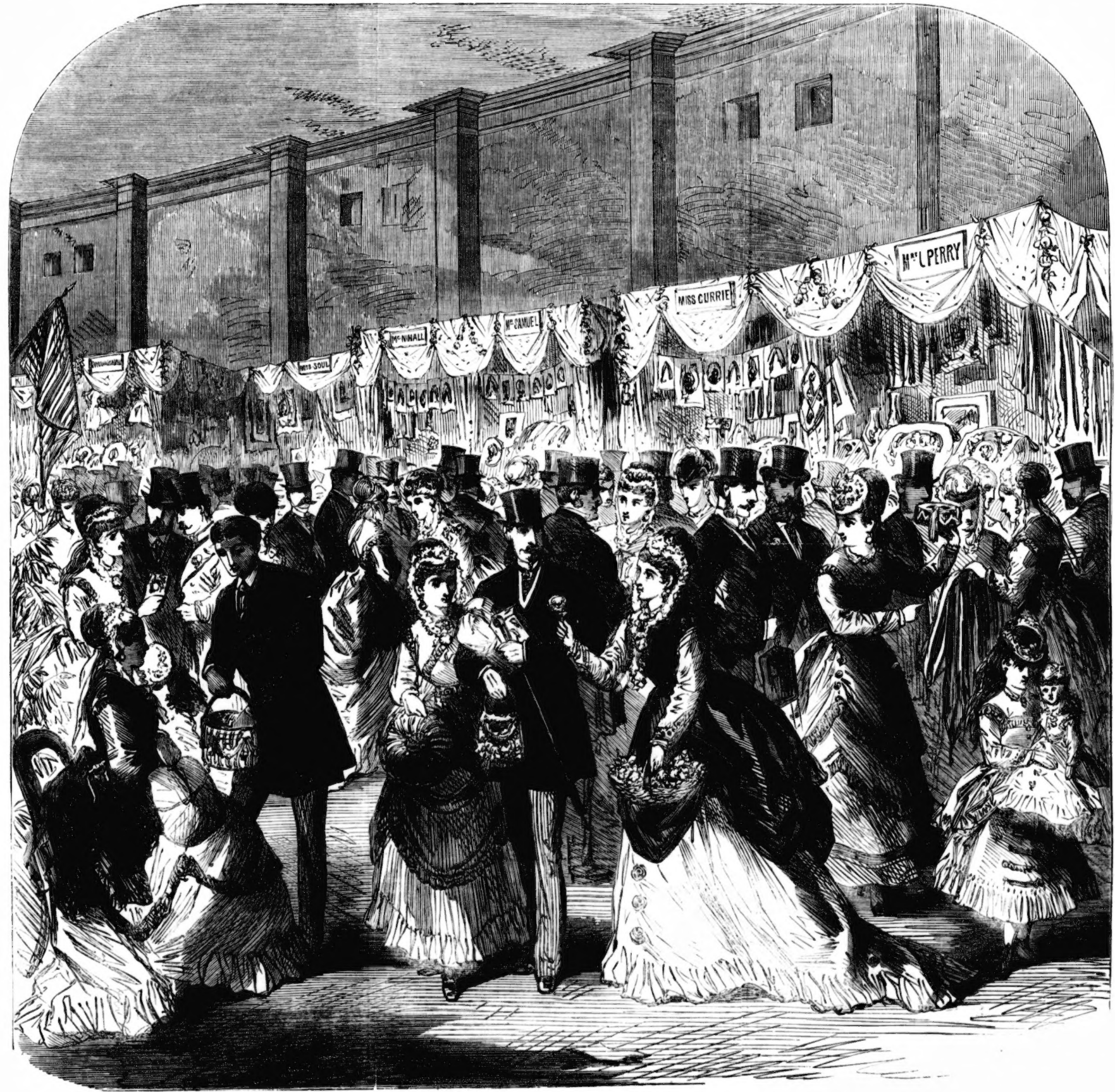
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THE DEBATE IN THE LORDS.

THE result of the division in the House of Lords on the Irish Church Bill will be known nearly as soon as our Paper gets into the hands of readers; so it is useless to speculate on the event, though we may state that at the time we write it is generally believed the good sense by which the Upper Chamber rarely fails to be governed in the last resort, and our confidence in the influence of which we have repeatedly expressed, will prevail, and that the bill will be read a second time, with a view to amendment in Committee. This is as it should be; and, where an earnest desire is mani-

festated to effect an arrangement satisfactory to all parties, a way will of course be found, and no envenomed bitterness be engendered by the contest. The debate, though nominally on the point of the second reading, has embraced the whole question of disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church; and, even as regards the two first nights, with which we are here more particularly concerned, was as exhaustive as it was able. That the balance of argument, if not of rhetorical eloquence, remained with what we deem the right side, it is natural for us to think; while we are willing to acknowledge the general sincerity as well as

ability of the opponents of the measure. It is impossible for us to go over the whole range of the discussion. One or two things said in the course of the debate merit remark, however, because they are of interest not only now but for all time. And what strikes one first and most strongly is the universal distrust of the voluntary principle evinced by all the opponents of disestablishment and disendowment; a distrust specially exhibited by the bench of Bishops. Now, although we cannot well understand this distrust of Voluntaryism in Christian men who know history and have a living belief in the creed they pro-



GRAND FANCY FAIR AT SOUTH KENSINGTON ON BEHALF OF THE ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE.



fees, we can guess at its source in Bishops as Bishops, for it is tolerably certain that no Church supported solely on the freewill offerings of its adherents could afford salaries of from £4000 to £15,000 a year, and palaces to boot, to its chief pastors; so that, knowing the weakness of human nature (if it be not irreverent to suppose that devout ecclesiastical dignitaries share the common failings of poor humanity), and the advantages attendant upon episcopal rank in a richly-endowed institution like the Church of Ireland, it is not difficult to comprehend why the Archbishop of Dublin and the Bishop of Derry should dislike being thrown upon the voluntary principle for support, and that they should have the sympathy in that dislike of their English prelatical brethren. But, though Bishops disendowed may cease to rank with the princes of the earth, they would not cease to be ministers of religion and teachers of Christianity; and it may be that they would labour as zealously, as faithfully, as successfully—yes, more so—and as contentedly, in the one position as in the other.

Apart from Church dignitaries, however, it is humiliating to find the noisiest laudators of Protestantism exhibiting the greatest want of faith in its inherent self-sustaining power. For this distrust of Voluntaryism, when examined and interpreted, means—and can only mean—distrust of Protestant truth. Church champions will not deny—indeed, they dare not deny, or they cut the ground entirely from under their feet—that truth, on the whole and in the long run, is always, and must be, stronger than error. They believe, farther, that Protestantism represents truth, and that Popery represents error. Then why distrust the power of Protestantism—that is, truth—to make head against and finally conquer Popery—that is, error? There is clearly a lamentable want of faith displayed by those who tell us that without Statesupport Protestantism in Ireland must be supplanted entirely by Popery—that truth must succumb to error. The Bishop of Derry says that Protestant ministers are unable to compete with Roman Catholic priests, because the latter can exercise powers over their flocks to extort money which the former do not possess—they can threaten them with the terrors of purgatory for their deceased relatives now and for themselves hereafter. But that is only exhibiting the same lack of faith in another form, and saying that a religion of falsehood and terror is more powerful than one of truth and love; which is utterly repugnant to both the spirit and the letter of the New Testament. The words of the Master were, "If ye love me, keep my commandments;" not "If ye fear me, obey my priests." If we could only imbue the clerical mind and the minds of clerical champions with a little more faith in themselves, in their people, in their creed, and in their Master's promises, and with less trust in earthly aids, we should hear no more—or, at least, much less—of this distrust of Voluntaryism and this affected terror of a deluge of Popery. Principles that are strong enough to draw souls to heaven, are surely sufficiently potent to maintain pure religious ministrations on earth.

We can quite understand that there are districts in Ireland where the Protestants are so sparse, and it may be so poor, that they could not maintain pastors for themselves. But that is a common lot; and surely it is not too much to expect that the brethren of these destitute ones in other and more happily-situated localities will come to their aid, as other orders of religionists do for the poor of their communities. Surely rich, prosperous, and zealously-Protestant Ulster might be expected to aid poor and thinly-scattered non-Papists in Munster, and so make the Episcopal Church of Ireland in reality what she has heretofore only been in name—a missionary church. The voluntary principle does not mean that each congregation should support its own minister only, look to itself alone, and leave other congregations to manage how they can; it means that its adherents should, besides helping themselves, help their neighbours also. And this is exactly what the Free Church of Scotland, for instance, does do; each congregation in that body contributes to the general sustentation fund, and then supplements the stipend of its own minister according to its means. And, more or less, all voluntarily-supported Churches do the same. Why should not a like spirit animate the Episcopal Protestants of Ireland? They number among them the wealthiest portion of the population and nearly all the landowners; and surely these, out of their abundance, can afford to help with a liberal hand their destitute brethren.

Those who throw scorn upon Voluntaryism, moreover, and point to Dissenting ministers with small and insufficient salaries (we wish there were none such; and that every minister of religion was maintained as educated gentlemen should be; and we hope the day will ere long come when that will be the case) as evidence that the voluntary systems fail, forget that there are such beings as poor curates, and almost as poor incumbents, in the State-paid and richly-endowed United Church of England and Ireland. Do we not every day hear solicitations for contributions to the fund for augmenting the stipends of poor curates—yes, even for cast-off clothes for destitute and insufficiently-paid clergymen of the Church and their families? The ministers of Dissenting bodies are not sunk quite so low as this, for we, at least, have never heard of *dépôts* for secondhand clothing for them. So that, if Voluntaryism are not so liberal as they should be, neither are Churchmen; if the voluntary principle fails, so does that of establishments; and the sneers of those who scoff at Voluntaryism recoil upon themselves.

Then the Duke of Rutland, among other not overwise things, laid it down as an axiom that the State should uphold truth and put down error—a doctrine which, acted

upon by the adherents of Rome, and for a long time, in fact as well as in theory, by the Protestants in Ireland, has done more mischief, and led to more persecution on account of religion, than all other influences put together. The State—whether by that term we understand the people in their collective political capacity or merely their rulers—have a right to do no such things as either to decide what is truth and what is error (every man must do that for himself), or to uphold the one and suppress the other. All the State, as such, has to do in the matter is to see that citizens and principles have free action and fair play; and leave truth and error to fight and conquer according to their own inherent power. If this be done, we need have no fear of the result. The experiment of the State upholding truth—that is, Protestantism—and suppressing error—that is, Popery—has been tried in Ireland, and has failed: error is stronger than ever; and truth makes no way, simply because it has been adulterated, has been mixed up with the error of State propagandism, and has lost vitality and power in consequence. When the simple rule, that each man must decide for himself what is truth and what is error, is abandoned; when the essential principle of Protestantism, the right of individual judgment, is discarded, and the pernicious doctrine is set up in its stead that one man or one order of men is entitled to dictate a faith to his or their fellows, mankind is "in wandering mazes lost," and there is no limit to the cruelty and wrong that may be perpetrated in the name of religion and truth, falsely so called. From dictating a creed to compelling belief therein, from prescribing a formula to enforcing conformity therewith, are easy and natural steps. Admit the right to prescribe a faith, and the right to enforce its reception, by whatever means, follows as a logical sequence. Safety only lies in refusing the initiatory step, in maintaining unflinchingly and uncompromisingly the sacred principle that each man is entitled, as he is bound, to discover truth for himself, and to work out his own salvation. Those who believe that they have worked out this to its necessary consequence, hold it to be obvious that the principle is violated, in a greater or lesser degree, wherever a State Church exists; and that it is especially and pre-eminently violated in Ireland, where the State faith is that of a small minority only and is opposed to the convictions of the great majority of the people. Let the Episcopal Protestants of Ireland put away from them these unclean things, State-provided endowments and social and political ascendancy, and they will both live more peaceably with their Roman Catholic neighbours and find their principles more acceptable among them.

Another reason adduced in the course of the debate for not passing the bill was that the measure would not entirely pacify Ireland nor content the Fenians. Perhaps not, and we are not aware that anybody ever said that the abolition of the State Church would thoroughly and immediately render all Irishmen contented. The wrongs of centuries are not rectified and their effects obliterated in a day; but the establishment of perfect religious equality will tend in that direction, and this great act of justice will not remain barren of good results. As religious inequality has been notoriously a source of discord and heart-burning there, so religious equality must have a pacificatory influence, which will make itself felt and seen by-and-by. Other measures may be—necessary to complete the work; but this measure is right so far as it goes, and must produce good effects because it is right. Let us sow the seed of righteousness, justice, and fair play, and no fear but a crop of peace and goodwill will be reaped in due season. As for the Fenians, we need take no heed of such a set of blackguards and rowdies as are the moving spirits of that fraternity, except to watch them and repress their evil deeds. Their power will vanish when the lever of social discontent with which they work is removed.

THE ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE BAZAAR.

We last week stated that a bazaar and fancy fair had been opened at South Kensington, on behalf of the Alexandra Orphanage, and we now publish an Engraving representing the scene. The bazaar was kept open till the end of last week, and, we believe, was a decided success.

THE BALLOT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.—The Sydney correspondent of the Times, writing on April 25, says, in reference to voting by ballot in that colony:—"Considerable interest is here taken in your discussion on the ballot. We are amazed, looking from our experienced point of view, at your diffidence in making this step, and the air of mystery that seems, among people who consider this subject in England, to hover about it. Here nothing is more simple in operation. Before we had the ballot all was excitement, and scuffle, and storm, and party parade, and treating, and gross bribery; now an election is the quietest, most orderly process in the world, and unattended by any bribery whatever of the old sort. The bribery that does exist is from another quarter and of another form. The candidate who promises to secure for his electoral district the greatest share of the public money in bridges, quays, roads, and the like is the elected member. He accepts bills drawn on the Treasury by the constituency. As to what improvement there may be in public morals owing to the substitution of one form of bribery for another I will not say; I have nothing now to do with the ethical side of the question. The greater part of the world that is moral is more moral by habit than by principle, and the restraints of society remove the habit of wrongdoing and gradually introduce a distaste for it."

M. MICHELET ON THE PARIS ELECTIONS.—M. Michelet, the historian, has written the following characteristic letter to the new deputy for the sixth division of Paris, M. Ferry:—"My dear Sir,—It has been proved that Paris is France, as much as France herself. But your election is of all the others the most important. Why? Dynasties pass; the clergy remain. In the state of a skeleton (even galvanised) one may last long. This skeleton has one and only one candidate in this enormous Paris of ours—in that blessed arrondissement called the Holy Land. That candidate is the ideal of the St. Vincent de Paul party—that is to say, philanthropic, excellent; neither flesh nor fish. He has humanity, charity; an ancient patronage of charity, so precious, the assistance of so many good souls! He has not only the Church, but the State; ardent co-operation, as in the Spanish times of the League and of Anne of Austria. He has a great elector, Misery, so much commiserated by the rich. This man has everything for him. But, lo! a miracle (I did not believe in miracles, but I am converted)—what an error! Paris is so strong, so pure, that against money, against the State, against the Church and all its influence it votes for conscience. This is sublime, for it is wise and reasonable. I press your hand." The candidate alluded to, the defeated one, is M. Augustin Cochon; and the "blessed arrondissement called the Holy Land," the Faubourg St. Germain.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Order has been re-established in Paris, and it does not appear that there has been any repetition of the disturbances in the provincial towns. A large number of provincial newspapers are being prosecuted for having published false news relative to the recent occurrences in Paris, Bordeaux, and Nantes. M. Barbieux, manager of the *Paris Rappel*, and M. Arnould, one of the editors of that paper, have been sentenced—the former to four months' imprisonment, the latter to six months', and both to a fine of 3000f.—for inciting to hatred and contempt of the Government. M. Schiller, printer of the *Rappel*, was sentenced to one month's imprisonment and a fine of 1000f.

The *Patrie* says that 564 persons arrested in the French capital were taken to Bicêtre on the 11th inst., and 473 on the following day, making a total of 1033. Others previously sent made up the number to 1100. Bicêtre is a fort a little way out of Paris, and these prisoners are confined in nine of its casemates, so that there are about 125 in each casemate. No one is allowed to visit them without express permission from Marshal Canrobert, the commander of the 1st Army Corps. It is thought that a large number of the incarcerated were mere harmless spectators of the disturbances which took place in Paris, and that they will at once be set at liberty.

The *Peuple* of Wednesday evening contains an important expression of the Emperor Napoleon's views on recent events. His Majesty, in a letter to M. Mackau, of the Legislative Body, says that, in his opinion—and he is sure in that of a majority of the Chamber and of the country—"the concession of a principle, or the sacrifice of individuals, is always ineffectual in the face of popular movements, and a Government which respects itself ought to yield neither to pressure, to excitement, nor to revolt."

The Duke de Persigny has written a letter (published in the *Constitutionnel*) arguing that the Empire and freedom are not incompatible, and that a just and firm Government can bear the existence of every liberty.

The *Official Journal* of Thursday morning publishes a telegram of Wednesday's date from St. Etienne, stating that the troops had arrested a number of miners who were trying to prevent others from working. As the troops were returning to St. Etienne, a mob assailed them with stones and pistol shots to rescue the prisoners. The soldiers fired on their assailants, who took to flight, leaving thirty-three of their number in the hands of the troops, by whom they were conducted to St. Etienne. From six to ten of the rioters were killed, and four or five soldiers more or less injured.

SPAIN.

The Regency has been voted in the Cortes by 193 to 45. There was a great speech on Tuesday from Castelar, replied to by Olazaga. On Wednesday Castelar spoke strongly against the French Empire, declaring that it would soon fall. Olazaga defended it, saying it would last long.

In the Cortes, on the 12th, General Prim was asked by a member how it was that the country was still without a king. In reply, the General stated that the reason was because the Princes to whom the throne had been offered had declined to accept it. He thought the refusal of Don Fernando was very ill-judged, for had he accepted he would have considerably added to the importance and prosperity of both Spain and Portugal. General Prim declared that he and his colleagues were still in search of a king, or, rather, had "already found one." "Do members know why we have not brought him forward?" he asked. "Because it is very difficult to get anyone to consent to come and govern Spain in its present unsettled state. But this state of things will pass away, and will pass away under the auspices of the Regency; and then, when the country has recovered its tranquillity, I am certain that not merely one but several candidates will solicit the crown of Spain. The question will then receive its proper solution."

ITALY.

In Florence, on Tuesday night, a determined attempt was made to assassinate Deputy Lobbia, who has been giving evidence before the Parliamentary Committee on the tobacco monopoly concession. Signor Lobbia defended himself with his revolver, and thus preserved his life. He, however, received two slight wounds. The Chamber of Deputies has expressed its horror of the crime and its sympathy with Signor Lobbia.

PRUSSIA.

At a banquet given at the Bremen Townhall, on Tuesday, in honour of the King of Prussia, his Majesty replied to a toast of Herr Duckwitz, the Burgomaster, as follows:—"If Providence willed that a great and unexpected work should be achieved through me, it was not I alone who executed it, but together with my companions in arms and allies it was performed. All, however, for which the present generation yearns is not yet accomplished, but those who come after us will gather in the fruits and witness the completion of that edifice of which we have laid the foundations." At the conclusion of his speech the King expressed his thanks for the reception he had met with, and drank prosperity to the city of Bremen. There was a brilliant illumination in the evening.

AUSTRIA.

The Minister of Public Worship has addressed instructions to the Governors of the provinces respecting the course to be taken by the authorities with regard to the execution of episcopal sentences for the confinement of priests to clerical houses of correction. The Minister declares that these episcopal commands are only valid in so far and so long as the condemned priest voluntarily submits to them.

In the Lower House of the Hungarian Diet, on Monday, Count Andrássy was interrogated respecting the arming of troops on the military frontier for the conquest of Bosnia. The Hungarian Minister denied that any preparations for war were being made. He added that the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy desired the maintenance of peace, and would persevere in a policy of non-intervention so long as other Powers did the same.

The members of the delegations elected on Monday in the Lower House of the Hungarian Diet all belong to the Deak party.

DENMARK.

The anniversary of the Danish Constitution of 1849 has just been celebrated at Copenhagen, and has partly taken the character of a national demonstration in favour of the Scandinavian Union, which was the theme of nearly all the speeches. The students are going to hold a Scandinavian universities' meeting, and the artists a Scandinavian congress and exhibition of pictures.

THE UNITED STATES.

Government have determined on vigorous war against the Indians, and General Sheridan has gone west to take the command. Additional troops will protect the Pacific Railway. Volunteers, to protect Kansas, are to be raised by General Schofield. The Indians captured a Government wagon-train at Arizona, burnt it, and killed three soldiers and wounded three.

President Grant's Government is apparently determined not to recognise the Cuban insurgents. A strong effort was made, on the occasion of General Dulce's retirement, to obtain recognition, on the ground that Spain had no longer any regular authority in the island. Mr. Fish, however, told the agent of the rebels that until they had driven all the Spanish troops out they had not achieved their independence, and they must not expect the United States to acknowledge them until they had achieved it.

The President has ordered that the differential duties hitherto levied on merchandise imported in French bottoms should be discontinued, thus reciprocating the action taken by France in reference to American vessels.

The Government, it is reported, sanctions the publication of the following version of Mr. Motley's instructions:—"He will explain to the British Government the circumstances attending the rejection

of the Alabama Treaty, without committing America to any particular policy. Mr. Motley is not instructed to propose any settlement of claims, but to secure the temporary postponement of the question, hoping, when the present excitement subsides, that England will invite renewed negotiations. He is not authorised to announce the readiness of the United States to make any propositions, or to demand the payment of claims, but to assure the British Government of the sincere desire of the United States to have the dispute adjusted on terms honourable and satisfactory to both nations. He is also instructed to state that the Neutrality Proclamation is not in itself a cause for demanding compensation, or a separate ground of complaint; but that, taken with subsequent acts, it was unfriendly, as showing a feeling of hostility to America during the late war and resulting in losses requiring reparation.

CANADA AND NOVA SCOTIA.

On Monday the Canadian Assembly reversed a decision to which it had come last Saturday with regard to the grant of an additional subsidy to Nova Scotia. It has been resolved that the subsidy shall be granted.

The Nova Scotia House of Assembly passed a resolution last Saturday authorising the Government at Halifax to appeal to the British law courts with the view of testing the legality of the Confederation Act. The resolution was afterwards rescinded. It is asserted that the Repeal League, established in Halifax, has resolved to make annexation to the United States the platform of their policy.

BRAZIL.

The Brazilian Chambers were opened on May 11 in a Speech from the Throne, in which electoral reforms and a better administration of justice, &c., were recommended. The expedition against Lopez had not yet reached his stronghold. An English officer had been granted permission to pass through the lines of the allies with despatches to Lopez, and had returned with despatches from the American Minister, General M'Mahon.

CUBA.

By the Atlantic cable we hear that a battle, which seems to have been of some importance, has been fought in Cuba. The Spanish account which has reached New York states that the rebels lost altogether 1200 men; the loyal forces only sixty. The insurgent General Marmol was killed.

NEW ZEALAND.

News has reached this country of another dreadful massacre in New Zealand, which took place in April last. Te Kooti seems to have cleared every living being out of Mohaka, a settlement inhabited by some English and friendly natives. Three of our countrymen, a lady and two children, and about forty natives, principally women and children, were killed, and their homesteads plundered and burnt. Te Kooti made good his retreat, with the loss of about ten men.

CHINA.

A telegram from Hong-Kong, dated May 27, states that the "difficulty" which had arisen at Peking on account of the insult offered to the French Chargé d'Affaires by Prince Kung has been settled by the Chinese authorities apologising. The occurrence is now referred to as a mere fracas. According to the same despatch "intense indignation" has been excited throughout the foreign communities in China by the views expressed by the British Government with regard to the recent operations in Formosa.

A DUKE ARRESTED.—The Paris correspondent of the *Salut Public* of Lyons narrates the subjoined:—"The Duke de Massa was arrested when attempting to prevent a sergent-de-ville from striking an inoffensive individual. When taken to the station he was asked his name. He gave it. 'The Duke de Massa!' exclaimed the inspector; 'do you suppose you are going to make fun of us?' The Duke would have been inevitably locked up had he not presented his card, when he was bowed out with all due reverence."

THE SALE OF MR. BLENKIRON'S YEARLINGS, at Middle Park, last Saturday, realised a total of 12,640 gs., or an average of 243 gs. There were fifty-five lots, of which fifty-two were actually sold. Among the higher-priced lots may be mentioned the colt by St. Albans—Leprosy, which Mr. Stirling Crawford secured, after a smart competition, for 650 gs. The filly by Newminster—Margery Daw was bought by Mr. Bertram's commissioner for 180 gs. The brown filly by Gladiateur—Lady Kingston was knocked down to Mr. Crawford for 600 gs.

NORTH LONDON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL.—The annual speech-day and distribution of prizes of this school took place, at St. George's Hall, Langham-place, on Thursday. Marquis Camden presided; and the Earl of Dartmouth, Judge Payne, and a number of clergymen and friends of the pupils were present. After the distribution of the prizes several scenes were enacted from plays in Latin, German, French, and English by the pupils, amidst the plaudits of the assembly, testifying to the great care taken by the Principal, the Rev. Dr. Williams, in their education.

GUSTAVE DORÉ AND THE PARIS RIOTS.—Gustave Doré, the well-known painter, went out, like every body else, to see the rioting in Paris. He was in his working clothes—that is, in a blouse—and was mistaken for a gamin from his youthful appearance. Some of the individuals who saw money to reap disturbance were doubtless led into error by that circumstance; for, on Doré feeling someone touch his pocket, he put his hand into it and found there a piece of 5f, which he had never placed there. On the strength of his costume and face he was paid to aid in the riot!

MURPHY THE LECTURER.—Mr. Murphy was brought before the Birmingham magistrates, on Wednesday, on a charge of attending the late meeting on the Irish Church, with intent to create a disturbance. The Bench held that the arrest had been improperly made, and dismissed him. He then announced his intention of taking proceedings against the Mayor, by whose orders he was arrested. Between nine and ten on Wednesday evening a large mob of Irish people assembled round Murphy's chapel, smashed a number of the windows, and threw stones at his friends, who tried to protect the building. A large force of police were sent for before the mob could be got to disperse.

ENGLISH CHURCH UNION.—The annual commemoration of the English Church Union was held, on Tuesday, at many of the London churches. At the annual meeting in Freemasons' Hall, which followed the celebrations, the Hon. C. L. Wood presided, and many of the Ritualist clergy were present. The report shows that the society has increased its numbers by upwards of 1500 during the year. A resolution was carried to the effect that whatever differences might exist in the society as to the expediency of a more or less elaborate ritual, its members were determined, at all hazards, "to resist any attempt to prohibit the teaching of the Catholic doctrine of the Holy Eucharist, which the Church of England has inherited from primitive antiquity." Another resolution declared that no reform in the ecclesiastical courts would be acceptable which left untouched the present court of final appeal. In the course of the proceedings Dr. Pusey read a long paper on the present crisis in the Church.

THE CROPS IN SOUTH WALES.—The much-needed showers of the last few days have had a favourable effect on the crops in this district, filling up the under grass where the hay crop has been rather thin and giving increased vigour to the wheat growth. As compared with previous years, the hay-fields present a tolerably satisfactory appearance, the more hilly localities having suffered to a slight extent from want of rain and warmth, but it is believed that the crop altogether will be fully an average one. The cold weather in April and May, as well as other drawbacks, has checked the growth of the wheat, which had the season been more genial, would have been considerably more advanced. On light soils barley and oats are scarcely equal to average years, but the next few weeks may make up for the past. The potato crop is, so far, tolerably good. The gardens up to a week ago gave promise of a favourable season, but the cold winds of the last three or four days have rather marred prospects.

LORD ELCHO ON THE SITUATION.—Lord Elcho, M.P., thinks that the Protestant Dissenters of the North of Ireland have "slowly awakened to the fact that the disestablishment of the Protestant Church means the practical establishment in Ireland of the unrivalled supremacy of Rome;" and therefore makes a suggestion, "which it would have been idle to make so long as the Presbyterians and Protestant Dissenters of the north of Ireland were in favour of the Government bill." The noble Lord's idea is that they should "accept the fact that in Ireland we have two nations to deal with, a Protestant as well as a Roman Catholic nation, and in disestablishing the Irish Church, amend the bill so as to exempt Ulster from its operation. Thus, while doing what is called justice to the Irish Roman Catholics, we shall not do injustice to the Protestants, descendants of those whom England, for English purposes, planted in Ireland, for whose use she set aside Church lands, and to whom, by the most solemn engagements, she permanently guaranteed the State support of their Protestant faith. Let, then, the Irish Church cease as an establishment; but let the Protestant Church of Ulster be established in its place."

A LATE AMERICAN VIEW OF THE ALABAMA QUESTION.

THE American correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Philadelphia on the 1st inst., says:—

"The United States Government, it is generally believed, has abandoned the idea of seeking redress from England for issuing the Neutrality Proclamation of May, 1861, because there is no tenable ground on which it can be demanded. The address of President Woolsey, of Yale College, who is a strong American authority on international law, showed what slim chance there would be of maintaining such a demand; and researches made by the State Department disclose that the American Government in this matter is stopped by its own previous action. Hence the Cabinet questions whether it will be proper to now make any reference to England's early recognition of the Confederacy; and, there being grave doubts of its good policy, the idea is given up. The State Department is said to have been making researches in the earlier diplomatic correspondence of the war, from which it appears that, on June 12, 1861, Lord Lyons, the British Minister at Washington, explained to the Secretary of State that England in issuing the proclamation of May intended to be strictly neutral; that Mr. Adams, then American Minister at London, wrote to the Secretary of State, on June 21, 1861, that a desire to be perfectly neutral inspired her Majesty's Ministers; and that Secretary Seward, in reply, while regretting the proclamation, virtually declared that there was no special cause for trouble at that time on account of it. On June 17, 1861, the Spanish Government issued its proclamation of neutrality in the American War; and on July 15, Senator Carl Schurz, then American Minister at Madrid, wrote to Secretary Seward an account of his interview with the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, in which Schurz says:—

"Senor Calderon Callanter then asked me whether the declaration of neutrality on the part of Spain in regard to our domestic troubles was satisfactory to my Government. I replied that the Government of the United States asked for and expected from foreign Powers nothing but to be left to dispose of our domestic controversy as it deemed best. As to the declaration of neutrality on the part of Spain, I had received no expression of opinion from my Government, and thought it would be considered satisfactory."

"The Spanish proclamation appears to have been eminently satisfactory to the United States Government, for on Aug. 5, 1861, Schurz again wrote to Seward:—

"In pursuance of the instruction contained in your despatch, I addressed a note to Senor Calderon Callanter, a copy of which is hereto annexed. I would have solicited an interview with the Secretary for the purpose of expressing to him the satisfaction with which the proclamation of the Queen was received by the President, had he not been absent from the capital."

"The note addressed to Senor Calderon Callanter referred to was dated July 31, 1861, and was in these words:—

"Sir,—Yesterday I received a despatch from the Secretary of State of the United States informing me that the President has read with the greatest satisfaction the proclamation of her Catholic Majesty concerning the unfortunate troubles that have arisen in the United States, and it affords me the sincerest pleasure to express to your Excellency the high sense which the President entertains of her Majesty's prompt decision and friendly action upon this occasion."

"During the rebellion the United States Government was extremely anxious to keep the peace and maintain friendly relations with all foreign nations. A knowledge of this, and also of the fact that the European neutrality proclamations were not then formally complained of by the Government, seems, to the President's advisers, to indicate that an estoppel is put upon complaint now."

VELOCIPEDING AT THE AGRICULTURAL HALL.

THE Agricultural Hall at Islington was opened to the public last Saturday in another novel capacity—that of a velocipede practice school and racing arena. A better covered space for this purpose could not be found, and favoured by the strong bicycle mania which has broken out amongst us, the speculation, properly managed, ought to be remunerative. The persons who have embarked upon this project advertise the place as a "Velocipede Cirque," and they have converted the hall into something as near a ring as possible by inclosing in an immense oval the whole area of the hall. Instead of the classical sawdust or familiar tan, we have a smooth boarded floor, with huge circular tanks of growing flowers and shrubs at the corners to mark the turning points for the riders. A handsome silver cup was offered for competition amongst velocipedists, and all comers were invited to enter the lists. The card contained twenty-three entries, although there was an entrance-fee of 10s. There were six heats, and then the competition was confined to two young velocipedists, Mr. R. B. Turner and Mr. J. Hook. Each race was nine times round the course—a distance of about a mile. The deciding heat was an exciting one. The riders kept close together, Hook evidently running purposely a yard in Turner's rear. In the last round but one, however, Hook put on a tremendous spurt, and shot ahead of his opponent amidst loud cheers. Turner soon after gave up, and it was said he had by a previous tumble injured his foot, and therefore placed himself at a disadvantage. Both are excellent velocipedists, but the general opinion was in favour of Hook. The races were run at an average rate of fifteen miles an hour, a speed which it would be impossible to attain over a less smooth surface. The attendance of spectators was large; and as this is no doubt the beginning of a fresh type of popular amusement, a few lessons might be learned from the experience of last Saturday. Although the band of the Victoria Rifles discoursed very fine music in the gallery, the intervals between the races were three times too long, and the cries of "Time!" that at length arose were quite justified. It is a question, too, whether the presence of the betting fraternity, shouting their slang from barrel-heads, is likely to be an attraction for such a quiet sort of assembly, or whether the toleration of ragged and unscrupulous sellers of "rect cards" within the hall will invite the attendance of timid ladies and nervous gentlemen. Of course, if velocipeding is to become a new kind of "national sport," with the "national" attributes of betting, bookmaking, and welshing, these are the proper things to do—not otherwise. As an entertainment, these races made a good shilling's worth.

The proceedings were varied by numerous accidents, just sharp enough to raise a warm excitement without much abiding anxiety. The spectators appeared to be on a pinnacle of delight when a velocipedist, spinning along at ten or twelve miles an hour, came crash against the barricade and rebounded head over heels, while numbers two and three, hotly pressing on behind, and too late to stop or turn aside, made rapid cannons, and in the twinkling of an eye became part of a singular moving mass of wheels and legs on the floor. No serious injury appeared to be sustained by the fallen. Some of them leaped into the saddle again at once, and hurried off upon their mission; others limped out of sight; one seemed "dazed" at the shock he received; another tried to laugh off his mishap, but we saw him spitting blood when he thought no one was looking. The severe and sudden shaking which these falls produce cannot be altogether without injurious consequences. The best riders were those who sat bolt upright and preserved a rigid seat, leaving the legs, and especially the knee-joint, to do the work. Turner and Hook excelled in this easy way of propelling their machines, and did their mile without apparent labour; while the velocipedes of other riders, who were not so steady, and whose joints seemed to want oiling, trembled under them, and were troubled with a perverse propensity to enter into devious ways. Simultaneously with the skilled riding in the arena, ordinary amateurs and learners were rattling round the galleries with various degrees of success, oftentimes to the great amusement of the spectators. Velocipedes by various makers were exhibited in the hall, and, judging by the advertisements, pamphlets, circulars, and other velocipede literature that was scattered broadcast, the great sewing-machine rivalry will by-and-by be nothing to that of the bicycle. The waste of time between the races, above referred to, might have

been obviated by the exhibition of fancy riding. Some of the competitors were velocipedists whom we saw execute several graceful feats and figures at another entertainment earlier in the week. No velocipeding exhibition should lack the more ornamental branches of the art.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

CONSERVATIVE MEETINGS.

SEVERAL Conservative gatherings, with a view of strengthening the position of the members of the House of Lords who oppose the Irish Church Bill, were held at the close of last week. The most important of these was a largely-attended county demonstration at Manchester on Saturday. On the same day a town meeting was held at Liverpool. At Bristol, Bolton, York, Shrewsbury, Dover, and Cambridge gatherings of a similar character have taken place; at which resolutions condemnatory of the present bill were passed.

TOWN MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM.

A crowded meeting, called by the Mayor, was held, in the Birmingham Townhall, on Monday night, to consider the Irish Church Bill. Tickets were issued early for the platform, and were divided equally among the leaders of the two political parties. There was an immense preponderance of Liberals in the galleries and the body of the hall. The Mayor presided.

The Town Clerk read letters of apology from the borough members. The letter of the Right Hon. John Bright is as follows:—

London, June 9.

Dear Sir,—I must ask my friends to excuse me if I am unable to accept their invitation for the meeting on Monday next. The Lords are not very wise, but there is sometimes profit to the people even in their unwisdom. If they should delay the passing of the Irish Church Bill for three months, they will stimulate discussion on important questions, which, but for their infatuation, might have slumbered for many years. It is possible that a good many people may ask what is the special value of a Constitution which gives a majority of one hundred in one House for a given policy, and a majority of one hundred in another House against it. It may be asked also why the Crown, through its Ministers in the House of Commons, should be found in harmony with the nation, while the Lords are generally in direct opposition to it. Instead of doing a little childish tinkering about life peerages, it would be well if the peers could bring themselves on a line with the opinions and necessities of our day. In harmony with the nation, they may go on for a long time; but, throwing themselves athwart its course, they may meet with accidents not pleasant for them to think of. But there are not a few good and wise men among the peers, and we will hope their counsels may prevail. I am sure you will forgive me if I cannot come to your meeting.

Believe me always, very truly yours, JOHN BRIGHT.
Mr. H. B. S. Thompson, Secretary to the Birmingham Liberal Association.

Mr. Thomas Lloyd proposed the following resolution:—

That this meeting is of opinion that the Irish Church Bill introduced by her Majesty's Ministers, being wise in policy and just in principle, and having passed the House of Commons by large majorities in accordance with the national will as declared at the late general election, ought speedily to become law.

He urged strongly that respect for the national will demanded that no obstruction should be placed in the way of the bill being passed into law. There were several attempts at interruption during the delivery of Mr. Lloyd's speech, but the expressions of dissent were drowned in vociferous and prolonged shouts of applause.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain seconded the resolution, and in the course of his speech combated the assertions made as to the alleged Conservative reaction.

Mr. S. S. Lloyd rose to propose an amendment. He was met with a storm of groans and hisses, and cheers from the Conservative portion of the audience. He appealed in vain to the meeting to allow him a hearing, and the appeal when seconded by the Mayor was equally ineffectual. Mr. Lloyd stood in front of the platform for more than an hour, during which a scene of indescribable confusion prevailed. The Mayor over and over again implored the meeting to hear Mr. Lloyd; but the meeting only grew more vehement in its expressions of refusal. Now and again a prominent disturber of the peace was followed by the police and summarily ejected; but perfect good-humour, upon the whole, prevailed. A declaration by Mr. Lloyd that he would not sit down until he had obtained a hearing served only to evoke a stave of the popular song, "We won't go home till morning!" Mr. Lloyd, however, did ultimately sit down, but only to start to his feet again, at the instigation of his surrounding supporters. The Mayor put it to the meeting whether Mr. Lloyd should be heard or not. The noise prevented his Worship from being understood, and the tumult continued without abatement. Ultimately, the resolution was adopted by a large majority, as well as a petition to the House of Lords in favour of the second reading of the bill. Neither Mr. Lloyd nor Dr. Evans, who were to move the amendment, were heard. Murphy, the Protestant lecturer, had intimated his intention of being present; but he was taken into custody, on a sworn information, previous to the commencement of the meeting.

A large meeting was held outside, at which resolutions were carried in favour of the bill.

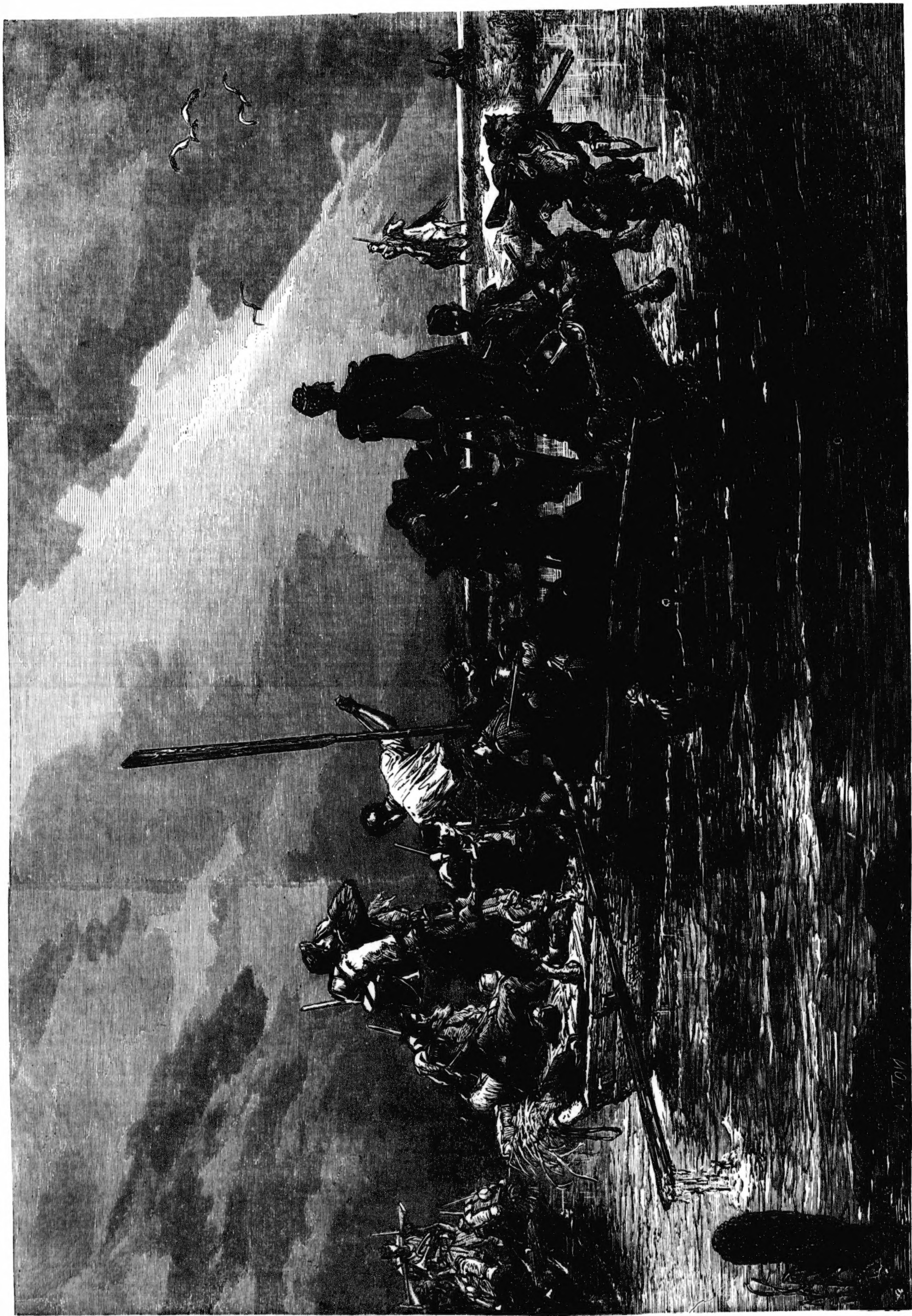
PROPOSED DEMONSTRATION IN HYDE PARK.

On Tuesday evening a very large meeting was held on Clerkenwell-green, "to hear," as the placard conveying it stated, "addresses from the members of the Pioneers of Liberty, the Holborn branch of the Reform League, on justice to Ireland and the Irish Church Bill." The placard hinted at "the suppression of public meetings on Clerkenwell-green by order of the Commissioners of Police;" but, in this instance at least, the fears of the "Pioneers" must have been unfounded; and Mr. Lucraft, who was called upon to preside over the proceedings, from a wagon decorated with two old Reform-League banners, had to apologise at the opening for any supposed intention to interfere with the right of public meeting. It had put them to some inconvenience in obtaining a four-wheeled platform. The meeting, however, was a preliminary one, and might, he said, be described as an open-air committee, to determine what should be done if the Lords threw out the Irish Church Bill. Mr. Johnson, in answer to this question, and Mr. Bright, two of the "Pioneers," proposed and seconded a resolution repudiating the statement of the Earl of Derby, that Mr. Gladstone has not the support of the great majority of the nation in passing the Irish Church Bill, and expressing a determination, in the event of the House of Peers rejecting the bill, to hold a monster demonstration in Hyde Park, on Monday, the 28th inst. Mr. Charles Bradlaugh supported the resolution, observing that the only argument their Lordships understood was the collection of half a million of people in the park, or, if necessary, under the windows of their own House, in Old Palace-yard. The resolution was carried by an immense display of hands; and, after listening to some other "Pioneers," the meeting, which was orderly throughout, adjourned till Monday next.

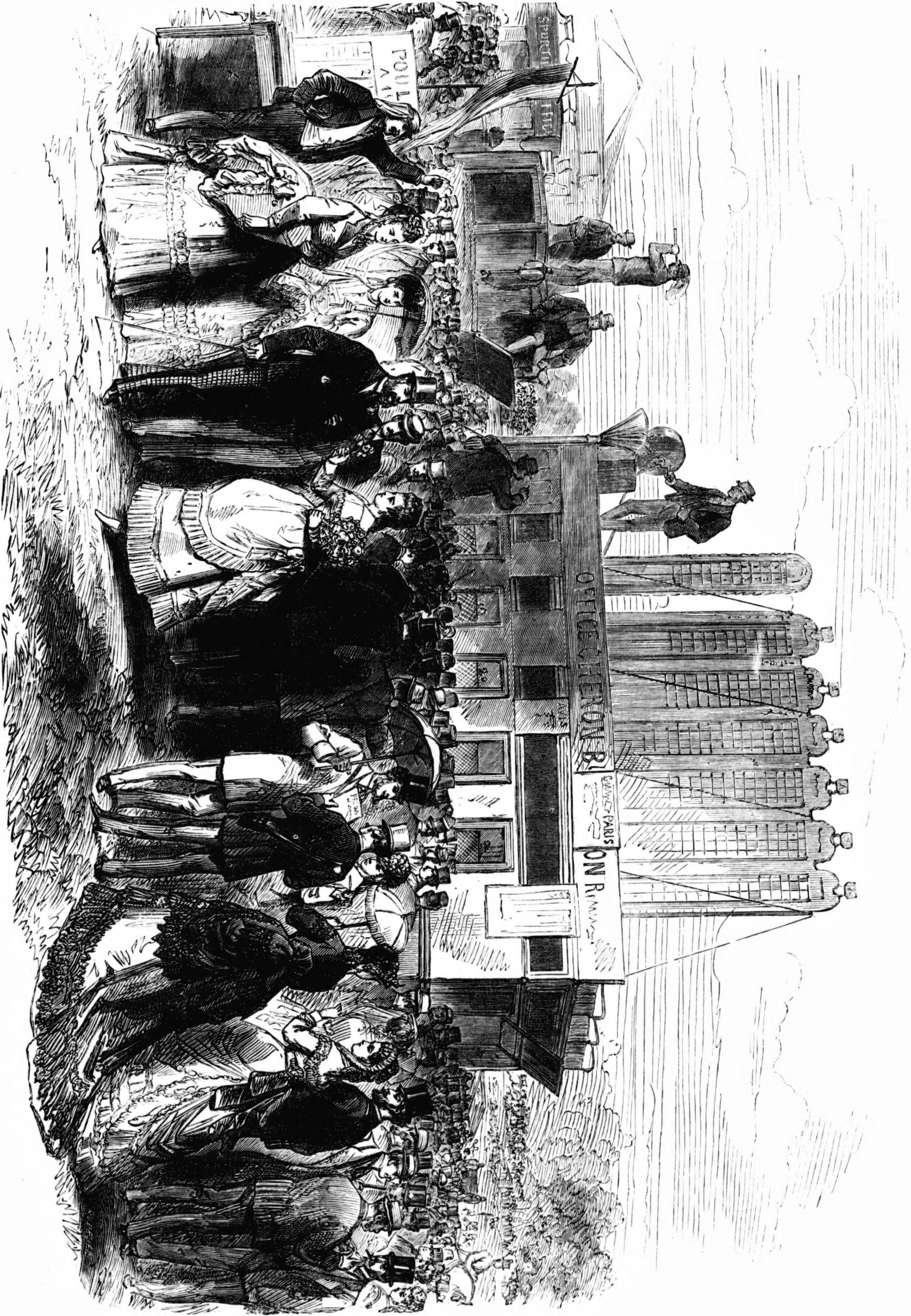
A REMINISCENCE OF THE CRIMEA.

OUR illustration from the Paris Fine-Art Exhibition this week is taken from a remarkable picture, the work of M. Alphonse Neuville, called "Trumpeters of the Advanced Guard Crossing a River." There is wonderful suggestiveness in this group, which exhibits admirable composition and that true realism that seizes with an artistic appreciation the whole spirit of the scene. The indifference to danger displayed by the soldiers; the half-careless and yet disciplined ease with which they have taken their places in the boat; the aspect of the country and the characteristics of the men, all render the picture an admirable souvenir of the great war.

SHIPPING DISASTERS.—A telegram from Edinburgh on Thursday says:—"Upwards of twelve vessels were last night ashore at Dunbar. Four miles of coast to-day are strewn with wreck and cargo. Eighteen lives at least are supposed to have been lost. One lost vessel belongs to Montrose, and another to Aberdeen."



"A REMINISCENCE OF THE CRIME: FRENCH TROOPS CROSSING A RIVER."—(PICTURE BY M. ALPHONSE DE NEUVILLE, IN THE PARIS FINE-ART EXHIBITION.)



THE GREAT PARIS HORSE-RACE: THE COURSE AT LONGCHAMPS.—SEE PAGE 394.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 358.

ARMY ORGANISATION.

ON Thursday night, last week, we had a dull, tiresome discussion on Army organisation; a subject which needs discussion as all allow. And the discussion of it might produce good if we had but some great generals to discuss it, a Wellington or a Napier, for example; but with only carpet knights, who never saw a battle, and mere civilians,

That never set a squadron in the field,
Nor the division of a battle knew
More than a spinster,

to discuss it, one sees not what good can come of discussion. But, however that may be, it was discussed, or talked about, for seven mortal hours. The debate was begun by Lord Elcho, who moved that we ought to have a reserve. He spoke for an hour by the clock. He was answered by the Secretary for War, Mr. Cardwell, who took an hour and a half to deliver his opinions upon this subject. Fifteen members spoke in the debate, and of these fifteen only three have ever sniffed the smoke of battle. Most of the speakers are militia or volunteer officers, whose laurels and experience have been gained at Wimbledon, when the annual shooting comes off, or in gentlemen's parks, or on village greens. The real warriors were Colonel E. H. Lindsay, who was at Balaklava and Inkerman; Colonel Lynd Lindsay, who was also in the Crimea battles; and Colonel Sykes, an old Indian, who fought under Lord Lake, years ago, at Bhurtpoor. No General who has commanded an army on a field of battle spoke for the simple reason that there is no such General in the House. The most frequent speakers on Army matters now are our militia and volunteer officers; and it is astonishing and amusing to note the air of authority with which they clothe their dicta. As you listen to them, you would fancy that they were heroes of a hundred fights. "These young fellows," said a silent old Major who was in the Army before many of the speakers in this debate were born, and has taken part in more than one well-fought field, "want to teach their grandmothers to suck eggs. I shall go home." Seriously, "it is a con-ummation devoutly to be wished" that we had an old, experienced, able General in the House who could speak as one having authority on such a subject as this.

LORD ELCHO.

Both Lord Elcho and Mr. Cardwell, our War Secretary, may be called eloquent speakers. They can utter good English with ease and unflinching fluency, but they are not orators: they cannot hold the undivided and eager attention of the House; they cannot rouse its passions by thoughts that breathe in words that burn; nor can they charm the House, except to sleep. Indeed, this is one of the characteristics of their eloquence. It is somniferous. Unless you are specially interested in Lord Elcho's subject, his softly-flowing, mellifluous, even-toned talk, with his easy and graceful action, will almost inevitably send you through the hornpipe into the land of dreams. Lord Elcho began to speak about six o'clock; very few of the members present had dined; most of them, though, looked drowsy, and several were soon fast asleep. If he had risen directly after dinner, so powerful is the mesmeric influence of his eloquence, that half the House would have dozed. His Lordship, when he spoke upon the Irish Church, tried a different style; he elevated his voice, his action was more lively and emphatic. If he felt no passion he simulated it. But all this was unnatural, and was not a success. His new style did not sit easy on him, and though it excited attention by its novelty, it produced no effect.

CONSCRIPTION.

And now a word or two upon the wondrous tale which the noble Lord in that long speech unfolded. We pass by the process of unfolding, and leap at once to what Joseph Hume used to call "the tittle of the whole." We want a stronger military force and a never-failing "reserve." To accomplish this, Lord Elcho would have us all soldiers in *esse* or *in posse* (in actual service or trained to serve), every man of us—gentlemen, merchants, traders, shopkeepers, masters and journeymen, artisans, labourers, paupers. "The inhabitants of the realm were all trained to arms once," said his Lordship. Yes, but we had no standing Army then. As our merchants, and manufacturers, and traders increased and business became more exacting and absorbing, division of labour became necessary. Let there be a paid Army to defend the realm, whilst the merchants, traders, &c., follow their vocations to increase the wealth of the land, so that it shall be able to bear the cost of the Army and the expenses of wars when they come. Lord Elcho knows much, but he is evidently very ignorant of many things. Will he allow us to put a typical case, and ask him what he would do with it? John Smith is a journeyman engineer; he is drawn for the militia; he must serve—no substitutes, according to his Lordship's plan, being allowed. But he earns £2 a week, and during his six weeks' drill he would only get about 10d. a day from the Government. Two pounds a week for six weeks is £12; tenpence a day is only £1 15s.; balance, £10 5s. Is John Smith to lose this? If not, who is to pay it, your Lordship? But enough; the thing is impossible. With an ever-increasing number of traders and manufacturers in the House, and with some in the Cabinet, it is about as likely that we shall all be soldiers as it is probable that Lord Elcho will make his own boots.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL AKROYD.

Lord Elcho's strange motion was seconded by Mr. Akroyd, of the eminent firm of Akroyd and Sons, worsted manufacturers, at Akroydon, near Halifax. Grand establishment that Akroydon factory, and grandly managed! Some dozen thousand hands are employed; some 40,000 people are sustained by it; and so high is the character of the firm, that the Akroyd mark is current as gold. A bale of goods stamped with this mark no trader thinks of examining. And then the schools and other educational and economical and charitable institutions connected with the works are among the wonders of the world. How came the head of the firm to second this motion? Well, Mr. Akroyd, like many gentlemen of his class, has taken to soldiering. He is now Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of a Yorkshire regiment of volunteers; and, as a rule, all soldiers are more or less alarmists. Take the most peaceful of shopkeepers—a man who has no more fear of the French than he has of an earthquake—and make a soldier of him, and at once he becomes an alarmist. A cynical friend of ours, the other day, accounted for this curious fact in this way:—"Of course," said he, "we find this sort of thing in all professions. Our doctors are always exaggerating the dangers to which we are exposed. Clerical people make human nature blacker than it is. To hear lawyers talk, you would think that we are always in peril of difficulties from which they alone can guard us; and your soldier is, and ever has been as long as I can remember, crying out, 'The French are coming!' Every man likes to magnify his importance, you know." And it may be so. But into this subject we will no further go. Colonel Akroyd said but little. He speaks well, but never makes long speeches. But he, too, was for conscription—that is, forcing us all to become soldiers, whether we will or no.

LORD BURY.

And so was Lord Bury, the Earl of Albemarle's son, another volunteer officer. And what an alarming blast he blew with his sonorous trumpet! It was enough to make all the old ladies of both sexes shake with fear. The Army Estimates tell us that we annually spend some fourteen millions upon our Army; and yet Lord Bury says that we cannot put more than 45,000 men in line. But then his Lordship has got the alarmist fever awfully. Now, a word or two about Lord Bury. His Lordship on this military business, like all the rest of his tribe, runs wild; yet on other subjects, which he has mastered, few men can talk more sensibly than he. He was for a few years an officer in the Fusilier Guards. He retired from the Army in 1855, and went to Canada, where he picked up a great deal of knowledge of the country, and also a wife, the daughter of Sir Alan McNab, a famous man there. Do our readers remember that gentleman? How he was Speaker of the House of Assembly, and Prime Minister; and how, when he fought against the insurgents on the Niagara, and having seized

the Caroline steamer, he sent it tumbling over the Falls? A very prompt and vigorous man was Sir Alan. He is dead now, though, and the grass is already growing over him and his deeds. But to return to his son-in-law, Lord Bury. Soon after he came back to England he got into Parliament, and one night, when a debate about Canada arose, he got up and delivered a speech which arrested and held the attention of the House, elicited great applause, and placed him, as we all thought then, permanently in the foremost rank of our Parliamentary debaters. But we were mistaken. He certainly, on that occasion, got a footing in the front rank, but he could not keep it. The cause of his success was, he had mastered his subject. He has never since impressed the House as he then did; and we suspect the reason is, he has never cared to master any subject. This is a pity. He has fine gifts. He has a good presence, a capital voice, and when he has mastered his subject he speaks good English in an effective and graceful manner. On that Thursday night, though he got some cheers from alarmists like himself, his speech was poor. It is melancholy to see such a man shaking with this invasion ague. He needs a tonic. We will recommend him one: twenty pages a day of "Cobden's Three Panics" till the whole be taken. In such cases as his, this medicine has been found wonderfully effective. If there were wisdom at the Horse Guards, all volunteer officers—indeed, all officers—would be required to take it. We have reason to believe that some of our most eminent statesmen have derived surprising benefit from it.

THE SECRETARY FOR WAR.

The clangour of his Lordship's alarm-trumpet, blown with such vigour, roused the House from that dormant state into which it had been soothed by the lullaby which Lord Elcho sung. But Mr. Cardwell soon composed it to rest again, and we might have all quietly dozed for a good hour if he had not every now and then startled us by slapping, as his inveterate habit is, the official box before him. He did, though, good service. He sprinkled the alarmists with copious showers of cold water, and allayed their fever for a time. He reasoned against conscription, backing his argument with pertinent quotations from Adam Smith on the division of labour, and promised reorganisation of the Army. His speech was very long; did he but understand the art of packing, he might have made it much shorter, and consequently more effective.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.

Leaping over Friday, when nothing worthy of notice occurred in the House of Commons, we come to Monday. The special business of Monday night was the Vice-President of the Privy Council's Public Schools Bill, which Mr. Forster was fortunate enough to get through Committee before midnight, or very soon after. Mr. Forster's success, though we have called him fortunate, was mainly owing to his knowledge of his subject and his tact and skill. He had, though, this advantage—the great debate in the Lords was opened on that night, and consequently the House of Commons was but thinly attended. All our idlers and those members who do not feel much interest in public schools, were drawn off to the Lords, leaving behind a compact band of honest practical workers. This was a great advantage to Mr. Forster: indeed, but for this he would not, in all probability, have got his bill through in one night. The House being tapped in this way, an hour or two of mere watery, futile talk was probably drawn off.

AN IRISH ROW.

Towards midnight the House began to fill, and at ten minutes past, when the House of Lords adjourned, a stream of members flowed in, and before half-past twelve we had very nearly four hundred present. What could this mean? Sober citizens in the gallery must have been puzzled to see the House thus rapidly fill when nine tenths of the inhabitants of the metropolis were gone or going to bed. None but the experienced could learn from the order-paper what this meant; but members, and officials, and reporters well knew. Mr. Noel was to move a writ for Dublin. Sir George Grey proposed, as an amendment to the motion for a writ, to bring in a bill to disfranchise the notorious old freemen of Dublin city. There was, then, an Irish row ahead. The corrupt freemen had always supported the Conservative candidates. The Conservatives had therefore rallied to prevent their extinction, and the Liberals had come to extinguish them. "Had, then, the case been reversed, the two parties would have changed sides; and the Conservatives would have shouted for the extinction of the freemen, and the Liberals for their preservation?" Without cynicism, we are compelled to say, perhaps so; for experience has not taught us that the hands of the Liberals are much cleaner than those of the Conservatives. However, on this occasion the Conservatives fought for the corrupt Dublin freemen, and the Liberals against them. The fight was an angry one. Both sides got into a white heat; and when a hit was made, the hitter was vociferously cheered by his backers. Mr. Gregory told in mournful tones how he stood for Dublin once, and how, after the election, he was called upon to pay £4500 for bribing the freemen. He won that battle; but at the next election he was beaten because he refused to bribe. This was a palpable hit; but Mr. Vance promptly returned it by shouting out at the top of his voice, "The honourable member was not defeated because he would not bribe, but because he had turned his coat!" Loud cheers mingled with laughter greeted this sally. "I," continued the hon. member, "have thrice been returned for Dublin, and never spent a shilling in bribery." Whereupon Major O'Reilly rose, and, in his calm way, proved from a bluebook that a certain "young Mr. Vance" had been guilty of bribery at the late election for Dublin. This young man was generally thought to be the member's son, and Mr. O'Reilly could hardly make himself heard for the laughter which filled the House; but the laughter changed sides when Mr. Vance rose in a towering passion, folded his arms, and shouted out, "He is no relation of mine. I never had the honour of his acquaintance." So the war raged, but not for very long. The original motion was made by Mr. Noel that a writ for Dublin be issued. Sir George Grey moved that all the words after "that" be left out, to insert, "leave be given to bring in a bill," &c. The House divided. Sir George won by 215 against 169. The question was put that the words be inserted, whereupon Major Knox moved that the House do now adjourn, and was beaten by 178 to 76. Impetuous Mr. Greene then moved that the debate be now adjourned; and then Mr. Gladstone, knowing how futile opposition to successive motions for adjournment always are, consented, and the House broke up at half-past two o'clock.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord BATEMAN tried to get up a preliminary debate on the Irish Church Bill, in order to ascertain the intentions of Ministers should the bill be rejected; but failed by reason of the fact that he had not given proper notice of his intention.

The Parochial Schools Bill and the Metropolitan Commons Supplemental Bill having been read the third time and passed, some other measures were advanced a stage.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

DIPLOMATIC PENSIONS.

Mr. OTWAY, in reply to Mr. Staveley Hill, gave an explanation of the conditions on which diplomatic pensions are granted. Under the Act of 2nd and 3rd William IV., a diplomatic pension cannot be granted until fifteen years after the date of the first commission, and until the person employed shall have actually served ten years. If he has served three years as Ambassador at any foreign Court he is entitled to receive £1700 a year. By the same Act £700 a year may be granted to any person, after the expiration of fifteen years, if he has actually served ten years. At present four persons are enjoying the first-class pension:—Lord Napier (but the pension is in abeyance, because he is Governor of Madras), he served twenty-five years, and during five of these years was an Ambassador; Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, whose services commenced in 1807 and ended in 1858; Lord Cowley, who entered the service in 1824 and retired in

1867; and Sir H. Bulwer, who entered the service in 1827 and retired in 1865. The service was actually longer before the pension was granted than was required by the Act.

REPORT ON SUPPLY.

Some other questions having been put and answered, the report of Supply was brought up and received. It was stated by Captain VIVIAN, in reply to a question asked on the presentation of the report, that it was intended to put better weapons into the hands of the yeomanry; but there was not sufficient quantity in store to do so this year.

THE BANKRUPTCY BILL.

The further consideration of the Bankruptcy Bill was resumed at the 53rd clause. The only matter of public interest which arose in the course of the discussion was the proposal contained in clause 61, to take the chief Judge in bankruptcy from the common law bench. It was suggested by Sir R. PALMER that the effect of this provision would be to exclude from the office the man best qualified to fill it, Mr. Commissioner Bacon, who received his appointment to the Commissionership only twelve months ago, and who, if the clause were agreed to, would be pensioned off with his full salary, and the country thus be deprived of his valuable services. In his opinion, Mr. Commissioner Bacon ought to be first Chief Judge; and, as to subsequent appointments, he saw no reason why they should be confined to the common law Judges, as the equity bench was just as capable, and, in truth, more accustomed to deal with bankruptcy cases. After some discussion, which showed a remarkable unanimity of opinion in favour of appointing Mr. Bacon, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL observed that, as the feeling on the subject appeared to be so strong and general, the clause should be amended to admit of that gentleman's appointment. Considerable progress was made with the subsequent clauses, and when the sitting was suspended the Committee was engaged on the 91st clause.

MONDAY, JUNE 14.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

In a very full and brilliant House the Lords commenced their debate on the second reading of the Irish Church Bill. Many of their Lordships were laden with bulky petitions against the measure, the Earl of Derby laying eight hundred and fifty of these documents upon the table.

Earl GRANVILLE then rose to move the second reading of the bill. His Lordship sketched the immediate history of the measure, and then went on to give a general view of its provisions, answering, at the same time, by anticipation some of the objections that might possibly be urged against them. It was not to be feared that because the Irish Church was going to be disestablished the turn of the English Church would come next. At the same time, while the clergy deplored the estrangement between themselves and the people, they should not forget that their bitter opposition to the present measure, founded, as it was, on the wishes of the nation, threatened to increase that estrangement. His Lordship concluded, by urging several other arguments in favour of the second reading, by intimating that, if the bill went into Committee, any amendments proposed would receive full consideration.

Lord HARROWBY moved that the bill be read the second time that day three months. He objected to the bill on the general grounds that it was revolutionary, that it was in diametrical opposition to the Coronation Oath and the Act of Union, and that no circumstances existed to justify its introduction. The enactment of such a measure would have the effect of diminishing the number of Protestants in Ireland—a result that would be injurious to both countries alike; and he equally denied that it was a measure of justice, or that its sweeping character had been decided upon and approved by the constituencies at the late general election. The idea, therefore, that its rejection would be running counter to the national will he emphatically repudiated; and he urged that the country at large, and especially that portion of the working classes who devoted their attention to political questions, were calling upon their Lordships to resist this attempt to destroy the Irish Church by disestablishing and endowing it.

The Duke of RUTLAND spoke against the bill, which he condemned as destructive of the rights of property. Scouting the idea that the Irish Church was "a badge of conquest," and the Church of a minority, he argued that it was the Church of the majority of the people of the United Kingdom, and that the substitution of the voluntary system would prove a failure.

Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE, while disapproving the measure as it stood, was in favour of the second reading, in the hope of introducing amendments in Committee. If, however, the amendments introduced did not appear to him to cure the glaring defects of the bill, he should reserve to himself the right of taking a different course on the final stage of the measure.

Lord ROMILLY treated as absurd the idea that the disestablishment of the Irish Church would destroy the Protestant religion in the sister island. All it would do would be to deprive the Crown of the right of appointing to bishoprics, to declare that there should be no specific endowments, and to abolish the ecclesiastical courts. He could see no reason why the Irish Protestants should not continue to profess their faith after these changes had been carried, for they in no way affected the doctrine or discipline of the Church. In Scotland, for example, such a state of things had not been found to interfere in the slightest degree with the progress of religion. Finally, the noble and learned Lord cautioned their Lordships against offering resistance to the national will constitutionally expressed, and hinted that the severest blow they had ever sustained was when, in 1831, they rejected the Reform Bill, and were eventually compelled to accept it.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY, while agreeing neither with those who urged them to accept the measure as it stood, nor those who advised them to reject it without consideration, was glad when he heard the hope held out to them that any amendments made by their Lordships would be seriously considered by the Government and the House of Commons. Their Lordships had been told that if they gave the bill a second reading they would only show themselves powerless as a branch of the Legislature; but they who said that were in reality those whose action would reduce them to powerlessness. He and the other members of the English episcopal bench were sincerely attached to the Irish Church. They desired the union to be continued, because they felt that the same blow which fell upon the Irish Church would also fall upon them. Although, therefore, they did not approve of the bill in its present shape, they desired that it should be fairly considered, and, if possible, so altered and amended as to be converted into a good measure.

The Earl of CARNARVON advised their Lordships not to take upon themselves the responsibility of rejecting the bill upon the second reading. The majorities by which the measure had been carried through the Commons were large enough to warrant, and indeed to induce, them to pass the bill that stage; but, on the other hand, he ventured to think that the minority in the country and in the House of Commons was large enough to require every consideration on the bill going into Committee.

The Bishop of DERRY opposed the bill, on the ground that it would reduce the Church of Ireland to a reliance upon the voluntary principle; and Voluntaryism, he contended, was absolutely unfitted to the soil of that country. Their Lordships had been urged not to act against the clearly-acertained will of the nation; but he doubted whether the particular measure before them really represented the will of the nation. He further resisted the proposal because it ignored the Royal supremacy, was unjust to both clergy and laity, violated distinct pledges, and would end in bringing Ireland under the dominion of a Papal legate.

On the motion of Lord Lytton the debate was adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Sir H. JOHNSTONE put a question to the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs relative to the case of an English sailor named Jones, who has been imprisoned for twenty-three months at Barcelona, pending the confirmation of his sentence to five years in a chain-gang by the Supreme Court at Madrid. In reply, Mr. OTWAY stated that the case had been brought under the notice of the Government; that the prisoner had been sentenced to the punishment mentioned for stealing a piece of sail cloth; and that, as it appeared to be one of singular severity, representations had been made through our Minister at Madrid to the Spanish authorities on the subject. A telegram was received at the Foreign Office on Saturday to the effect that the matter had been referred to the Supreme Tribunal of Madrid, and further information was expected in a few days.

The hon. member, replying to an inquiry of Sir J. Hay with regard to the negotiations with Spain and the United States of America concerning the seizure of the ship Mary Lowell by the former, explained that the facts of the case themselves were in dispute; that the United States alleging that the vessel had been seized in British waters, whilst the Spaniards contended that it was on the high seas. The evidence on the side of the Spanish Government had been referred, with other papers, to the law officers of the Crown for their opinion on the question.

Having disposed of the "questions" on the paper, the House passed to the orders of the day by going into Committee on the Endowed Schools Bill, with the clauses of which some progress was made.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MR. BRIGHT'S LETTER.

Lord CAIRNS gave notice that on Thursday next he should ask whether Mr. Bright's recent letter was genuine, and, if so, whether the Government were prepared to indorse the sentiments it contained.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

The debate on the Church Bill was resumed by Earl GREY, in whose favour Lord Lytton waived his right to address the House. The noble Lord examined the arguments which had been urged in favour of the rejection of the measure, and said that he failed to find in them any explanation of the probable consequences of that course. Considering the circumstances under which the bill had passed the Commons, it would be a very serious thing to enter into a conflict with that House. The history of the measure forbade the Lords to hope for any reaction in their favour. In conclusion, Lord Grey implored their Lordships not to be induced to reject the measure by pressure from party or from person.

The Archbishop of DUBLIN followed with a critical examination of the provisions of the bill, and concluded by warning its supporters that they would not earn gratitude even if they succeeded in their aims.

The Bishop of ST. DAVID'S, who spoke next, objected to the use of such terms as "sacrilege," "spoliation," and "robbery" in relation to the measure, and strongly condemned those itinerant lecturers and others who, in their zeal for Protestantism, had broken the peace of the great towns, and created scenes of riot and bloodshed which every true lover of religion must condemn.

Lord Chelmsford, Lord Penzance, the Bishop of Peterborough, and the Duke of Richmond followed, and the debate was again adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

At a morning sitting, Sir JOHN HAY said that two vessels had come into collision in the Irish Channel, but no lives were lost, and as the vessels belonged to the same owners there was no inquiry. He asked if, under the circumstances, an inquiry would be ordered by the Board of Trade.

Mr. LEFFERTS intimated that the Board of Trade have come to the conclusion that it is not a case in which it is usual to hold an inquiry.

In reply to Major Cartwright, it was stated by Mr. BRUCE that it is not the intention of the Government to bring in a bill this Session to amend the Act relating to the county and borough police superannuation.

The House went into Committee, and proceeded with the consideration of the Bankruptcy Bill, to which subject the early sitting was devoted.

The House re-assembled at nine, and, after some business of no great interest had been transacted, the sitting was cut short at a quarter past ten o'clock by the House being counted out.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ADULTERATION OF SEEDS.

The House of Commons in its earlier hours was occupied with the second reading of a bill introduced by Mr. Welby, the object of which is to prevent the adulteration of seeds, which, according to statements made, extensively prevails. The mode in which the subject was treated rendered the discussion interesting. There was, however, a difference of opinion as to the mode of prevention, that of making this kind of adulteration—shown to be a grievous offence—criminal; and, at the suggestion of the Government, the bill will be hereafter referred to a Select Committee.

GOVERNMENT OF THE METROPOLIS.

Mr. BUNTON moved the second reading of the Government of the Metropolis Bill, the object of which is to create municipal corporations in the metropolis. This would be done by raising up a confederation of municipalities, consisting of the ten boroughs of the metropolis, the ratepayers of which should elect a general council, but each municipality having, however, its Town Council, comprising a mayor, aldermen, and councillors. Of the general confederated corporation the Lord Mayor, not of the City, but of London at large, would be the head; while Sir John Thwaites, the Board of Works being disestablished, would be chairman of committees of the council. This council would exercise a general supervision of all such matters as gas, water, paving, lighting, and all the functions which are now in the hands of the vestries. The Corporation of the City would not be destroyed—indeed, there was to be no destruction—but dovetailed into the larger system.

Mr. BENTINCK moved the rejection of the bill; and he was supported by Sir H. Hoare and Mr. Locke, speaking, of course, as metropolitan members, and with the mind of their constituencies.

At the suggestion of Mr. Bruce, the bill was in the end withdrawn.

RATING OF SUNDAY AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.

Mr. C. REED (member for Hackney), in a very successful maiden speech, moved the second reading of the Sunday and Ragged Schools Bill, the object of which is to exempt these institutions from rating. Mr. Graves seconded the motion. Mr. Percy Wyndham moved the rejection of the bill. Pointing out that the Government had the whole question of local taxation under consideration, Mr. Goschen suggested the difficulty of dealing with a particular exemption by itself; but he desired to guard himself from the imputation of want of sympathy with these schools. He observed on certain practical and technical difficulties which would arise, and so he was compelled to oppose it. On a division the second reading was carried by 228 to 71.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

Lord CAIRNS said that, in justice to the Government, they ought to consider this question apart from any party feeling. It was more particularly the duty of every member of that House to feel the responsibility of the course he was taking, as their decision might be against that of the other House of Parliament. He had no fault to find with the Ministers of the Crown inside that House; but he severely commented on the letter of Mr. Bright to the meeting at Birmingham, who, he said, possessed a large share of that privilege which he denied to their Lordships. Was it possible that the House could come to a resolution in favour of the bill in the face of a threat from a Minister of the Crown of abolishing the existence of their Lordships' House?

Earl GRANVILLE admitted the correctness of Mr. Bright's letter, but not the paraphrase which the noble Lord had put upon it. He protested against the principle which was here acted upon of calling upon the Government to answer for the individual acts of a Minister of the Crown out of doors on a subject which had never been brought before them and of which they were not cognisant. Mr. Bright had stated to his colleagues that he never intended to hold out any threat by that letter, and had authorised him to say that if any expression in it had given pain to their Lordships, either collectively or individually, he regretted it, for he never meant to say anything that would be hurtful to their feelings. The noble Earl, on the part of the Government, asserted that they had done nothing that could be construed into a threat against that House, and the course that was open before their Lordships was to vote according as their consciences dictated.

Earl GREY considered the conduct of Mr. Bright as a Minister of the Crown highly indecorous.

The Earl of DERBY said that, if this question had been simply one of expediency or policy, he would, in deference to the large majority by which it had been carried in the other House, not have opposed it; but, when the measure affected the rights of property in so many respects, and the constitution of that House, it was their duty to protect that property and their own rights. As they had deceived the people of Ireland, he asked what ground they had for maintaining the Act of Union when they were so flagrantly abandoning it? The union was not effected by conquest, but by treaty with the Protestant Parliament and the Government of England; and what answer would they have if they were in all honour to repeal the Act of Union which they were breaking? Having referred to some other provisions of the bill, the noble Earl said that he could not much longer continue the leadership of the Conservative party, which he had had the honour to hold for so many years; but, whatever might be their Lordships' decision, he should go to his grave with a feeling of satisfaction that he had raised his voice against a measure that was both unwise and impolitic (loud cheers, in which the strangers in the gallery joined by clapping of hands and stamping of feet).

The Earl of KIMBERLEY admitted that the Protestants were a remarkably intelligent, industrious, and loyal body of people; but, from the years of ascendancy which they had enjoyed, they were in the habit of disregarding the laws when applied to the other portions of the community, and thus creating a great deal of the disaffection which was manifested towards them by the other denominations.

The Bishop of RIFON objected strongly to the measure.

The Duke of CLEVELAND was in favour of the bill.

Lord REDESDALE thought that further time ought to be given to the country to consider the measure.

The Duke of DEVONSHIRE was of opinion that the measure would satisfy the majority of the Irish people.

The Marquis of SALISBURY could not find sufficient reasons to justify him in voting against the principle of the bill.

Lord COLCHESTER opposed the bill.

Earl STANHOPE urged the House that it should pass the second reading.

The Bishop of TUAM considered that the disestablishment of the Irish Church was the establishment of the Church of Rome.

Lord NELSON supported the second reading of the bill.

The Bishop of LICHFIELD moved the adjournment of the debate.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OUR RELATIONS WITH MEXICO.

Mr. OTWAY, in reply to a question from Mr. S. Beaumont, stated that the relations between this country and the Mexican republic remained unchanged; but this was not the fault of the English Government: it was the act of President Juarez, who, upon the re-establishment of the republic, notified his intention not to hold official intercourse with any Power which had recognised the de facto Government of the Emperor Maximilian.

MR. BRIGHT'S RECENT LETTER.

Colonel NORTH asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether the letter read at a public meeting at Birmingham, on Monday, the 14th inst., signed "John Bright," which has appeared in the public journals, was written by the President of the Board of Trade; and, if so, whether the Government concur in the opinions therein expressed.

Mr. GLADSTONE, amid loud cheers, rose to reply. He said, in answer to the inquiry of the hon. and gallant member, I have to state that the letter published in the journals as an address by my right hon. friend to a portion of his constituents is his production. Further, I have to state that that letter was written by my right hon. friend without communication with his colleagues in the Cabinet, and upon his own responsibility. As to "whether the Government concur in the opinions therein expressed"—whether, in fact, we approve of any threat or attempt at intimidation

against the free action of the other House of Parliament—on that subject I think I may appeal to the tone which characterised the debate upon the Irish Church question here and elsewhere, as far as the Government were concerned, that nothing is further from our intention. There are not merely words; but I have received of late several communications in respect to the holding of great public meetings in support of the Irish Church Bill, and I have, as far as I could presume, steadily discouraged them. I believe my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade has also received many communications of the kind, and he has taken precisely the same course, being anxious to avert anything which might be likely, or appear, to interfere with the action of the House of Lords.

ARREST OF MR. MURPHY.

Mr. BRUCE, in reply to Mr. Green, said he could not at present say under what Act or by what authority Mr. Murphy had been arrested.

THE DUBLIN WRIT.

On the adjourned debate on the Dublin writ of election a long conversation ensued. One side complained that the Liberal party was using its majority to tyrannically prevent the election for Dublin, and to disfranchise the whole body of freemen for the acts of a few; on the other side it was replied that the inquiry had been stopped by the Opposition in the House of Lords, and that they were throwing their shield over bribery for party purposes.

Ultimately the motion for issuing the writ was negatived, and leave was given to bring in a bill for the disfranchisement of the freemen of Dublin.



SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 1869.

THE BISHOP OF ST. DAVID'S.

THE striking speech of Dr. Thirlwall, in the House of Lords, on Tuesday evening, in opposition to the amendment of Lord Harrowby proposing to throw over the bill for disestablishing and disendowing the Irish Church, brings once more prominently before the public a prelate who is one of the most remarkable among living men of letters. If the late Dr. Milman were living, there might, perhaps, be some hesitation in saying what can now be put down without any fear of its being questioned—namely, that, in scholarship of the old school well posted up in the new, combined with the soundest type of Liberalism, Dr. Thirlwall has no superior, if, indeed, he has a rival. The Liberal party, both in the Church and out of it, are, perhaps, a little apt to forget their obligations to men of his stamp; the very fact of such men being Bishops telling, on the whole, against them. When a Bishop comes to the front with a liberal speech or a liberal book, of course his Liberalism is for the time a striking fact; he gets full credit for it, and his words are quoted as having, by the force of contrast, a peculiar weight as well as peculiar interest. But, when once the occasion is passed, the Liberalism of the man is retired behind the curtain of his churchmanship, so far as the popular eye is concerned. A Bishop is—a Bishop; and it is chiefly journalists and other men of letters who keep vividly before their minds the claims of men like Dr. Thirlwall—a great scholar, a great historian, and the most liberal of Liberal prelates since Whately.

It may not be without interest if we mention here a fact little known concerning the Bishop of St. David's. When he was only eleven years old his father, the Rev. Connop Thirlwall—incumbent of some church or chapel of ease in the neighbourhood of Long-acre—published a fairly thick volume entitled "Primitia," which was entirely the work of his son Connop, the present Bishop. A steel portrait of the boy was prefixed to the book, showing a large head and small-featured face, set in the ruff collar of the times, over a buttony jacket. The volume contained poems, chiefly on the Pope model; sermons; with prose allegories, after the style of the Vision of Mirza; and so forth. It was all very clever, and quite free from literary faults such as are common with boys; and a memoir by the little fellow's father stated, among other things, that "he could read Greek at four years of age with an ease and fluency which astonished all who heard him," and added that all the writings contained in the book were the spontaneous as well as the unassisted work of the author himself.

In anticipating an objection to the publication of these "First Fruits," Connop's father used some remarkable words (which we must quote roughly from memory, though we possess the book), "I think, on the contrary," wrote the proud father, "that the publication of this volume, by which my son has pledged himself to the cause of truth and goodness, may well have a favourable influence upon his future career; because, if ever he should be for a moment tempted to forsake the love of his youth, these pages will be a swift witness against him." No doubt, the learned and now venerable Bishop holds many opinions which his father did not hold, and could not, in the absence of more recent lights, have held. But the son has continuously acted up to the spirit of the pledge given in "Primitia," and the book remains a witness for him, and not against him.

A single word about precocity of intelligence may not be wasted. Bishop Thirlwall has fulfilled all the hopes that could justly have been drawn from the book (though, he has not, for instance, enrolled his name among those of our poets), but he is now an aged man, and, as his recent speech sufficiently proves, is still in the full vigour of his powers. Certainly, the early activity of his brain has not done him much harm; and, we hope it is not rude to add the words, long may he live to suggest that the old commonplace about precocious children is possibly an error! It is all very well to say that this or the other person who was great in maturity was dull in boyhood—Sir Walter Scott, for instance—but the question is, what was he set to learn, and what were the qualifications, as observers, of those who report the dulness?

BARKING CREEK.

THE manner in which civilisation palters with its difficulties—shirking some, and tinkering here and there in a hand-to-mouth fashion—would be more amusing than it is if it were not always getting us, or threatening to get us, into difficulty. It was very curious, twenty years ago, to see the way in which cemeteries were opened in spots a few miles from London in order that the remains of the dead might be out of the way of the living. There was a moral certainty that the march of building would soon overtake these cemeteries, and it has done so in many cases. Abney Park is crowded; and how far is it from closely-packed houses? Or Nunhead, or Kensal-green, or Norwood, or Highgate Cemetery? These cemeteries, however, are, of course, infinitely better than City churchyards; the dead must go somewhere; we have not got as far as Mr. Edwin Chadwick is said to have done, and should scarcely like to utilise the gas to be got out of dead bodies for lighting purposes; nor are the majority of mankind ready to follow the example of a beloved Royal lady and leave their dead bodies to be burned, the ashes only to be preserved. But there is a far more serious matter on which intelligent opinion is sufficiently advanced for purposes of action—if one can only find the working power. Everybody must have foreseen that the enormously-expensive main-drainage works for which we have all been so heavily taxed were only a trick for putting off the evil day; and even if the inquiry made by Mr. Rawlinson, under the direction of Mr. Bruce, as to the formation of a "bar" across the Thames at Barking Creek should end in dissipating immediate apprehensions, the difficulty we have tried to shelve in this costly and slovenly way will be certain to find us out again, and force upon us the old question of this immense waste of fertilising power—with all its attendant disadvantages and unpleasantnesses.

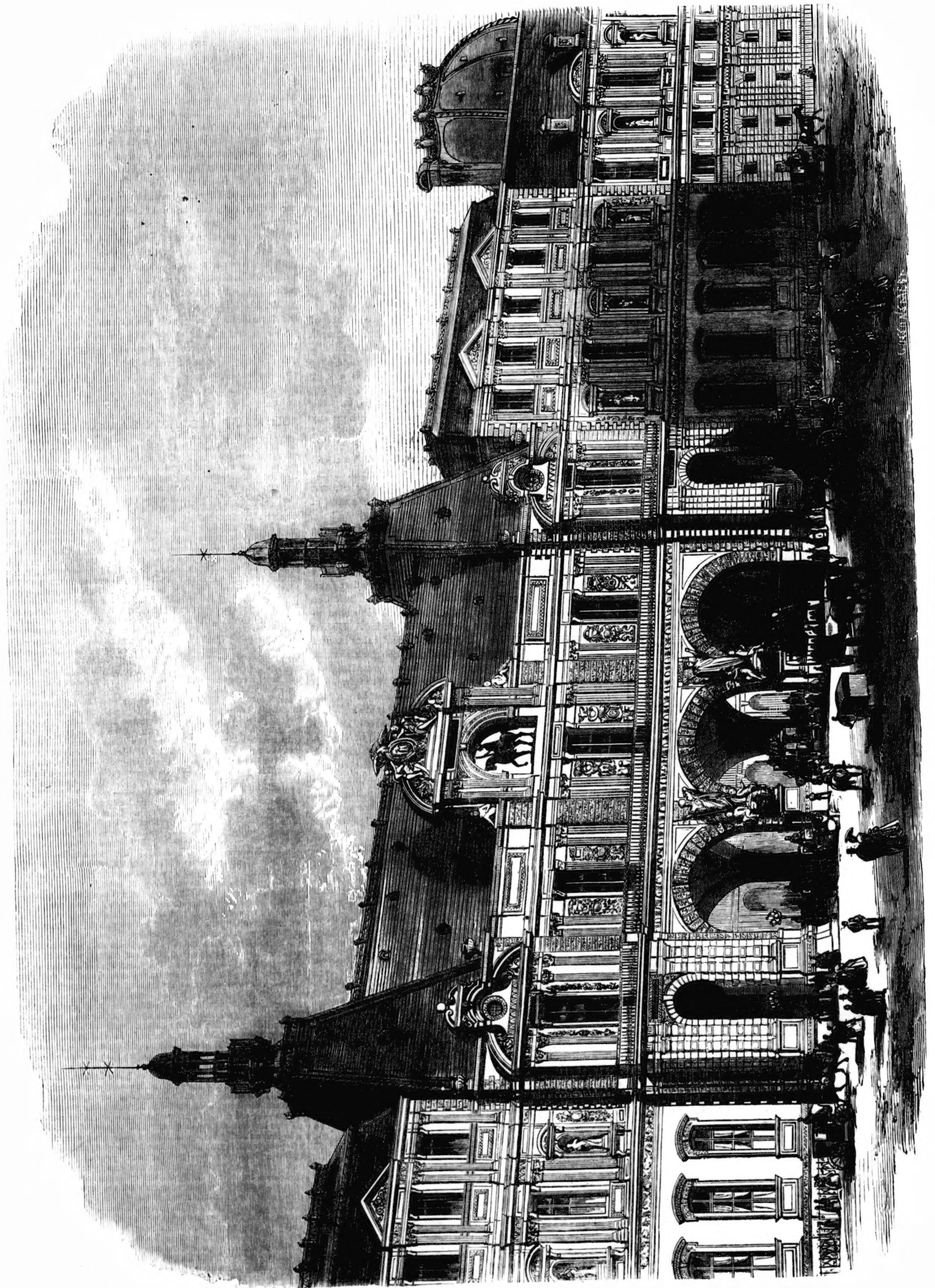
POLITICAL PERSECUTION BY WELSH LANDLORDS.

A few days ago a witness, Mr. Thomas Harris, described as a gentleman of independent means, residing at Llechryd, in Cardiganshire, appeared before the Committee of the House of Commons which is now taking evidence on the Parliamentary and Municipal Elections, and gave some important information as to what is taking place in that county, of which he professes a very intimate knowledge. In Cardiganshire the great majority of the people are Nonconformist Liberals, while nearly all the landowners are Conservatives. Mr. Harris, who has made it his business to go throughout the county inquiring into the facts, states that nearly all those Conservative landlords have given notice to quit to the tenants who voted contrary to their wishes. The witness has found thirty or thirty-five of such cases. He put in a letter from a Conservative landlord, dated Sept. 4, 1868, in which, referring to the coming elections, the landlord wrote:—"I hope we shall vote on the same side. We have been friends for some years; I hope we shall continue so." This letter was not answered. In November, still before the election, the landlord wrote again: he had heard that the tenant had thoughts of voting on the Liberal side, so he wrote:—"My opinion is that every man who is living on the property of the Church is bound to support it, otherwise he is a traitor to it; and, as you and myself have now been friends for so many years, I hope we shall continue so, and go to the poll and vote together, as I intend to be at the election." In explanation of a reference in this letter it may be stated that the writer is a clergyman, and that the rent of this farm is a part of his clerical income. The tenant voted for the Liberal candidate, and in March last—no communication except these political letters having passed between the landlord and tenant—the latter received notice to quit. He and his family have been on the farm fifteen years.

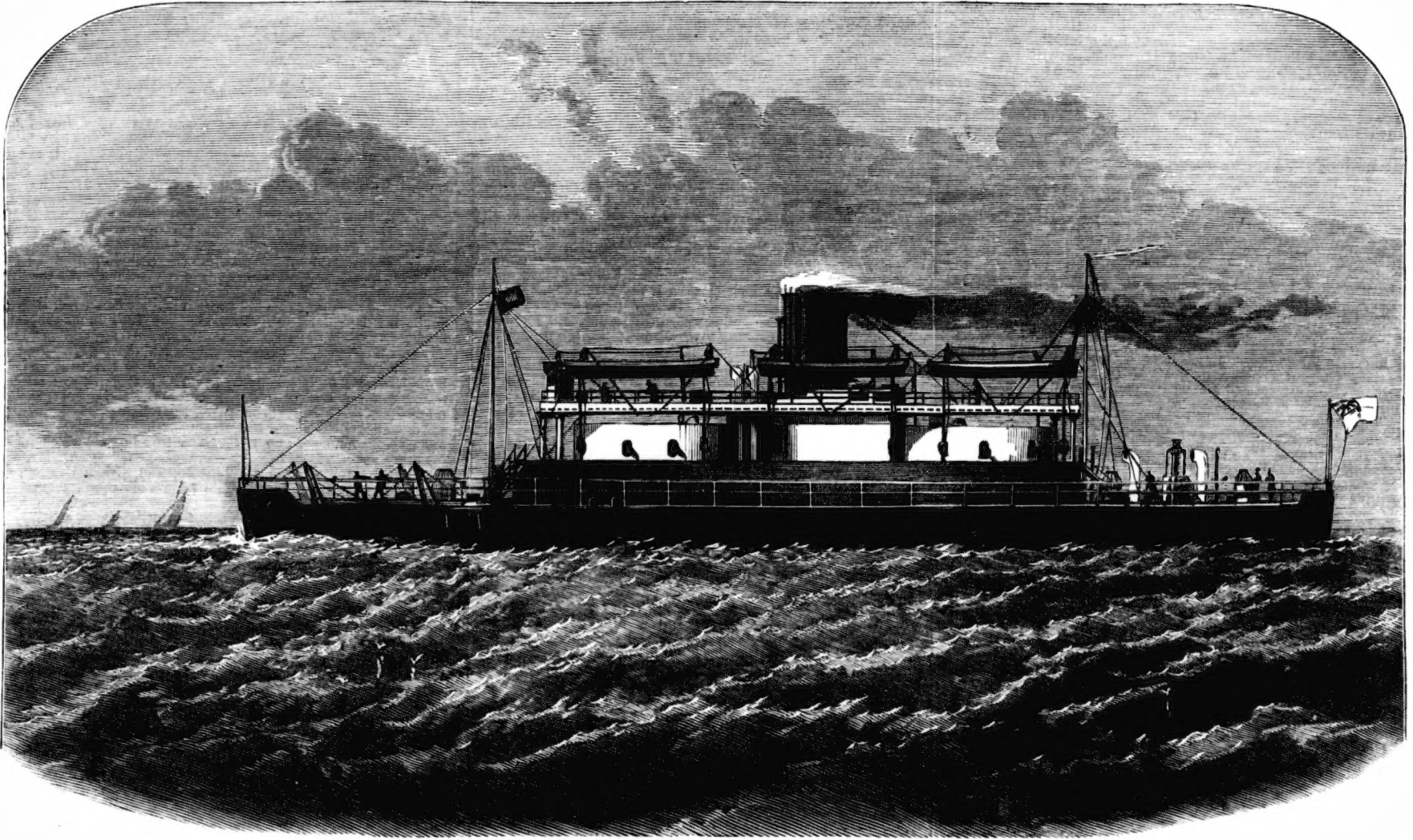
In another case alluded to by the same witness, the chief actor was the agent of a large estate. His letter to one of the tenants deserves to be quoted as a curiosity:—"Sir, I am given to understand that you and Mr. — have been soliciting votes for Mr. — among the tenants (naming the estate). What business have you to interfere with the tenants on the — estate? And I trust you won't do so again, but mind your business; if not, I will mind you before the 21st of next March. I am now desired to tell you from Mr. — (the landlord) that he expects you to vote at the coming election for Mr. —; and if you refuse to do so you will have to leave, and all others that refuse to vote according to Mr. —'s wish. Sir, yours truly," &c. In another case a landlord has a conversation with a tenant, which is attested. The landlord asks, "Will you give your vote to Mr. Vaughan?" The tenant explains that he is "a quiet man," and does not intend voting at all. The landlord replies, "Then if you want to be a quiet man all your life, give me your vote." The tenant explains that this he cannot do, and the dialogue ends thus, "Well, you will not give me your vote?" "I cannot, Sir." "Then, John, you will have no vote again as my tenant!"

The landlord has been as good as his word; the tenant has had notice. The same witness told of one case in which the family of the tenant had been two hundred years, and of another in which it had been four hundred years, on the estate, and in each case the tenant has received notice for having voted according to his convictions. The tenant in the first case applied to the agent after he had received notice to quit, hoping that a resolution so extreme would not be persisted in. The agent's reply was, "No; inasmuch as you did not think it your duty to vote with your landlord, you must go to your friends for a farm." It will be readily conceived that there is nothing like tenant right in Wales, and also that it is a prevalent opinion in the Principality that it is very much wanted there. Mr. Harris stated to the Committee that he has known several instances in which tenants have laid out £300 and £400 upon their farms, and have now no means of recovering it. The case was mentioned of a tenant who went to the expense of building all the farm buildings upon the farm, not excepting even the dwelling-house—the old dwelling-house he has as a lumber-room now—and he also has had notice to quit. The tenant of another landlord, who laid out only last year £30 in manuring one field, and who also embanked a river, has had notice to quit, although he and his father had been on the estate for thirty years.

It is impossible to regard these as so many unconnected cases of individual injustice. They are the consequences and the evidences of a system to which the attention of the country must soon be directed if we are not content to see public opinion falsified at the poll-booths and the independence of a most valuable class of men sacrificed. What we are tempted to ask, however, is whether there really are any bounds to the demands which the great landlord interest is prepared to make upon the tolerance of the most patient people on earth. Six months ago the landlord screw was put on in every county of the United Kingdom; nevertheless the opinion of the country contrived to express itself with vigour and decision; and the measure which, in spite of landlord influence, is supported by the votes of the House of Commons, is to be considered this week in the landlords' House of the Legislature. Will the landlords deign to consider, for once, that reasons have their rights, as well as acres, and that, whatever may be practised with impunity upon tenants-at-will in Wales, it would be at least prudent to respect the mind and will of the country as expressed by the House of Commons?—Daily News.



THE NEW ENTRANCE TO THE LOUVRE, PARIS.



THE CERBERUS FLOATING BATTERY.

NEW ENTRANCE TO THE LOUVRE, OPPOSITE THE QUAY.

We have already published some particulars of the improvements which have lately been made in the Louvre, and they are now approaching completion. As the most attractive of the buildings in Paris, not only for its historical associations, but because it comprises beneath its roof museum, palace, and picture-gallery, the Louvre cannot fail to interest visitors to the French capital. It may be difficult, as we stand beneath the entrance-hall, to realise that it was a Royal hunting-seat in the days of the

Merovingians, and that it stood in the midst of a forest, where the swarms of wolves suggested a name for the building. In 1204 it had grown into a fortress, and Philip Augustus erected the great tower, to which there are so many references in French history. This tower stood near the entrance to the present museum and the clock-tower. Francis I. pulled down the old castle and commenced the erection of the present edifice, which has furnished employment for almost every succeeding monarch and for generations of Court architects and decorators. When Catherine de Medici removed hither from the Tournelles two wings of the old fortress still formed part of the palace, and

it was in them that several of the incidents of the Massacre of St. Bartholomew were enacted. From a window looking over the quay Charles IX. is said to have fired on the Huguenots as they fled before the assassins. No vestige of these apartments now remains, and the façade opposite the quay has been rebuilt in the recent alterations. This fine frontage is the subject of our Engraving, and may be considered one of the most important restorations in the whole building.

In order to appreciate the entire work the visitor should be on the Quai du Louvre, and take in at one view the immense façade, which, beginning at the corner of the Louvre Colonnade of



ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE FROM FIRE: PRESENTATION OF REWARDS AT GUILDHALL.

Louis XIV., to the Pavilion of Flora, at the Tuileries, which is but just out of the hands of the workmen. First, there are the gardens of the Infanta, about which so much has been said; then, projecting forward, is the gallery of the Petit Louvre, which beautifully supplements the portion of the building begun by Francis I., and finished by Henry II., enriched with the sculptures of Jean Goujon and Paul Ponce Trebatti. After these historical portions, the eye reaches the long gallery connecting the Louvre with the Tuileries, commenced by Henry IV., on the plans of Ducereau, and completed by Louis XIV., Napoleon I., and ultimately by the present Emperor, who, by uniting the two palaces, has formed three sides of an immense parallelogram. This is effected by carrying out a line of building uniform with the gallery from the opposite extremity of the Tuileries to the other side of the Louvre. The wing which connects the two palaces bears the name of the New Louvre. Every visitor to Paris knows that beautiful gallery which abuts on the axis of the bridge of Saint Pères, whose stones are ornamented after the models brought from Italy by the Medici. This part has only been restored; but the ability of the artists and workmen has been most displayed in the completion of the second gallery, which will carry the Louvre as far as the Flora Pavilion, at the southern corner of the Tuileries.

The Pavilion Lesdiguières was not of sufficient importance to be the only point of junction between the two galleries, and therefore a new pavilion has been constructed, called La Tremoille, which is a pendant to the Lesdiguières, and copies with wonderful accuracy its proportions and architectural ornaments. Between these two has been formed a little "corps-de-logis," which greatly adds to the architectural effect. On the high wall of this part of the building has been set a great slab of white marble bearing a fine equestrian bronze statue of Napoleon III., executed in the same style as the Henry IV. which decorates the principal gateway of the Hôtel de Ville. Fine groups of sculpture representing respectively Peace and War decorate the walls on each side of the pavilion.

THE CERBERUS FLOATING BATTERY.

On the map the Medway certainly appears to be one of the least important rivers of the southern counties. Rising somewhere near the borders of Kent and Sussex, it meanders for many a mile through the beautiful hop-grounds and cherry-orchards of the Garden of England, without ever deserving to be called anything more than a brook. At Maidstone, some thirty miles from its mouth, one might almost jump across it with a leaping-pole; and it is only just above Rochester that it is of sufficient importance to be designated a river. After passing Rochester and Chatham, however, it becomes a broad stream, of swift current and creamy consistence, flowing between low-lying alluvial banks, formed by the deposits which it has carried down for centuries from the fertile inland valleys of Kent. Among the numerous creeks by which these marshes are broken up, in almost forgotten branches of the river, as well as in the mainstream itself, we may constantly come across vessels of curious build and antique mould, whose names are written upon some of the brightest pages of our history. Slowly rotting away under the varied influence of the seasons. Strange, however, to our modern eyes, as these ships seem to be from their mere age, many of later build than have floated on the bosom of the Medway are stranger still. This river, for instance, affords shelter to the greatest ship in the world, when she is not engaged in her civilising mission of encircling the earth with telegraphic girdles. Here, too, is frequently to be seen the cigar-ship, stranger of all naval productions, plunging the waves with those extraordinary screw-propellers of hers. Then, at one time, off Sheerness, lay the Miantinmah, a nine days' wonder to the West-End loungers, male and female, who scrambled in and out of the turrets and guns, down into the boiler-room and up into the pilot-house, nearly worrying the urbane officers to death with absurd questions. Recently also that gigantic structure, the Bermuda Floating Dock, has been here, exciting the curiosity of the excursion-loving cockney, and the emulation of the river boatmen, always ready to discover that she is dragging her anchors, and to be rewarded accordingly.

But, after all, one of the strangest specimens of naval architecture the Medway has ever seen arrived there a few days ago, in the shape of the Cerberus, a monster designed by Mr. Reed for the defence of Melbourne. This vessel, which has been built at Messrs. Palmer's yard, at Jarrow-on-Tyne, has come to Chatham under escort, to receive her final fittings previous to sailing for Australia. Though of comparatively small size—2100 tons—she has two turrets, each constructed to carry two 18-ton guns, and in defensive powers is fully equal to any vessel now afloat. In many respects, such as low freeboard, absence of bulwarks, overhanging stern, &c., she very much resembles the Miantinmah; but the great point of difference is that all the principal apertures in the ship are protected to a height of ten or twelve feet above the water-line by means of an armour-plated breastwork situated amidships, and inclosing a space equal to about half the length and half the breadth of the ship. The only openings in the deck outside of this breastwork are three skylights, for giving light and air below in a direct way when in harbour, and each of these is surrounded by 6-in. armour, and provided with an armour-plate cover for use in action. The side of the vessel from stem to stern, and for about 4 ft. below the water-line, is protected with 6-in. and 8-in. plating, and the breastwork with 8-in. and 9-in. Above the latter are the turrets, pilot-house, air-shaft, funnel, &c., and then over the turrets is a hurricane-deck, some 20 ft. wide; the pilot-house, air-shaft, and funnel being continued above this. The turrets are covered with 9-in. and 10-in. armour, and the pilot-house with 8-in. and 9-in.; this plating, of course, being solid, and not in numerous thin layers, as on the American system.

On the top of the breastwork a deck of two thicknesses of ½-in. plate is worked; and inclosed by it are the turret-engines, a steering-wheel, cooking-ranges, and the hatchways leading directly down to the ammunition, as well as those to the fore and after parts of the lower deck, where the officers and crew are berthed, some 6 ft. below the water. The Cerberus has a balanced rudder, and is fitted with twin screws, driven by engines of 250 nominal horse-power, and is expected to have a maximum speed of about nine knots. The fresh air for ventilating the hold is admitted by means of the air-shaft, ash-shoot, and other openings in the hurricane-deck; a fan at the bottom of the air-shaft and another at the fore end of the boiler-room, both worked by steam, being employed to drive the air through pipes leading to the different compartments of the ship. The ventilation thus ensured is said to be most efficient.

Great precautions have been taken to prevent the vessel being swamped, as happened with the original Monitor; all the openings in the hurricane-deck are protected by water-tight trunks, and the ship, which is of iron, has a complete double bottom, and is moreover divided into compartments by no less than seven water-tight bulkheads, extending from the upper deck to the inner bottom. In order that the fire of the turret guns may be practically unrestricted, the Cerberus will be without masts; and for the same reason the boat-davits and other outriggers have been made so as to lower in action. At Chatham, we believe, it is the intention of Colonel Pasley, R.E., the representative of the colonial Government in this country, to have her fitted, under Mr. Reed's direction, with a temporary deck and jury rig, so that she may be navigated to Melbourne like an ordinary ship. The Cerberus is remarkable, not only on account of her appearance, but because of the fact that, although the turret was invented by an Englishman, and although the first idea of the Monitor is due to an English brain, she is the first ship laid down under Admiralty auspices which can be said to offer any resemblance to vessels of the Monitor type. She is further an object of interest as affording a very fair specimen, on a small scale, of the seagoing turret-ships which the present Administration have announced their intention of building, and about which the controversy has been so warm. An impartial consideration of this vessel certainly tends to the

opinion that the breastwork feature is a most valuable one, as it not only protects the openings into the hold, but also gives a good height to the turret guns—a quality in which the low-lying American monitors are necessarily deficient.

PROTECTION OF LIFE FROM FIRE.

The Lord Mayor presided, on Tuesday afternoon, at the anniversary meeting of the Royal Society for the Protection of Life from Fire, and the presentation of its annual rewards, in the Chamber of the Common Council, at Guildhall. He was supported by Mr. Alderman Wilson; Mr. Alderman Finnis, treasurer of the society; Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Cotton, Mr. Sheriff Hutton, Mr. J. W. Butterworth, Mr. Sampson Low, Mr. Joseph Surr, and Mr. Sampson Low, junior, the honorary secretary. The society was first established in 1836; but the objects of it were not fully developed, nor its operations carried to any extent, until 1843, since which its course has been progressive and eminently successful, as shown by the great decrease in the annual number of fatal fires. It yearly expends considerable sums in rewarding brave exertions in saving life at fires, and, excluding Tuesday, 816 rewards have been presented. Since 1843 no less than 1150 lives have been rescued from death by fire or suffocation. In 1867 the society handed over to the Metropolitan Board of Works all its escapes and appliances, and since that year the work in the metropolis has been carried on in connection with the Fire Brigade. The suburbs, however, and country towns still continue under the notice of the society. Numbers of their escapes have been distributed in the course of the year, and rewards, as heretofore, given in deserving cases both in the suburbs and the country. On Tuesday fifty-seven persons received the society's rewards from the hands of the Lord Mayor, and in the presence of a numerous company. They included firemen, policemen, and a number of civilians. Police-Constable Mack, 241 X, received the society's silver medal, a testimonial on vellum, and a pecuniary reward, for saving, under the most trying circumstances, the life of Mrs. Norbury, a cripple, at a fire in Westbourne-grove, in October, 1867; and Ellen Kenney, of 19, Lisbon-street, Cambridge-road, Mile-end, a girl of eighteen, received similar rewards for saving two little children, aged four and six, at a fire in Eagle place, Mile-end, in December, 1867. Edward John Heaps, a carpenter at Aldershot, was also presented with a silver medal and other rewards for great gallantry at a fire in January, 1868, and saving two lives; and a like presentation was made to Benjamin Howell, fireman No. 261, for rescuing nine persons from a burning house in Chapel-street, Edgware-road; to John Doyle, a labourer, for saving two small children at a fire in Dublin; and to John Grimshaw, fireman 179, for extremely brave exertions at a fire in Lansdowne-crescent, Notting-hill, in January last. For extreme bravery in the last-mentioned fire Charles Lewis, police constable 82 X, received a silver medal, and Joseph Buckland, fireman, a testimonial on vellum and 30s. Mr. John Finlaison, barrister, a testimonial on vellum; and Thomas Mullens, servant to Mr. T. W. Hawkesley, of 19, Lansdowne-crescent, a testimonial on vellum and 30s. George Carter, a boy of thirteen, received a testimonial and one sovereign "for the thought and courage displayed by him at a fire in Portland-street, Soho, in August last;" and rewards for services in the same fire were given to Police-Constables Edwin J. Brown, 157 E, and George Knight, 151 E. Alfred Jones, house-painter, and James Kelly, labourer; Sergeant Tomkins, 14 D, and Richard Winnicott, 154 D, were presented with testimonials and money for rescuing six persons at a fire in Carlisle-street, Marylebone; and Robert Richardson, constable 278 N, received a vellum certificate and £1 for saving two persons from a fire in Hackney-road. All the cases were extremely deserving, and the recipients were heartily cheered by the company. At the conclusion of the ceremony the Lord Mayor expressed the great pleasure it gave him in presiding, and said no one could over-estimate the courage and bravery shown in the saving of life under any circumstances, but the merit as well as the peril became infinitely greater at a fire where people suffered from the utmost alarm and prostration, and where the nerves even of the strongest men were sorely tried. Alderman and Sheriff Cotton and Mr. Sheriff Hutton also addressed the meeting, and expressed a hope that through the medium of the society the suburbs of the metropolis would be soon supplied with the means of saving lives at fires, and that a similar benefit might be eventually conferred upon every town in England. On the motion of Mr. Alderman Finnis a vote of thanks was passed to the Lord Mayor for presiding, and with that the proceedings ended.

COSTLY REMOVAL OF COAL.—A rather singular affair has come to light in reference to the aid afforded by the Admiralty authorities to workmen being transferred from the dockyard at Woolwich to other Government establishments. These workmen have been provided with huge packing-cases, in order that they may take their furniture with as little damage as possible, the cost of removal being paid by the Government. One workman transferred to Devonport has been found to have applied these cases to the stowing away of a ton and a half of coals, for which the charge made for carriage by railway is £4, being nearly treble the value of the coal so removed. Some supervision surely should be exercised as to what articles are removed and paid for at the public expense.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The number of new members returned to the House of Commons since the dissolution of November, 1868, has now been increased to twenty-three; and, taking account of thirteen re-elections, it would appear that the House has been renewed during the past seven months to the extent of 54·7 per cent. The new members are Mr. R. H. Hurst (as to whose election there was at first some uncertainty), Horsham; Mr. Drax, Wareham; Colonel Wilmot, South Derbyshire; Mr. Bruce, Renfrewshire; Mr. T. Whitworth, Drogheda; the Marquis of Hartington, Radnor; Mr. E. Miall, Bradford; Major Anson, Bewdley; Mr. C. Phipps, Westbury; Baron L. N. Rothschild, London; Sir H. Johnston, Scarborough; Mr. H. James, Tannock; Mr. C. W. Hoskyns, Hereford; Colonel Clive, Hereford; Mr. E. R. Hornby, Blackburn; Mr. H. M. Fielden, Blackburn; Major Walker, Dumfriesshire; the Earl of March, West Sussex; Lord Hyde, Brecknock; Mr. M. Guest, Youghal; Mr. Horan, Liskeard; Mr. Salt, Stafford; and Captain Talbot, Stafford. Of the twenty-three new members returned, fifteen are Liberals and eight are Conservatives; they succeed fourteen Liberals and nine Conservatives; so that during the last seven months the Liberals have gained one, counting two on a division. Nine seats are now vacant—viz., Norwich, one; Dublin, one; Nottingham, one; Cashel, one; Sligo, one; Bridgwater, two; and Beverley, two. Of these nine seats, five were held by Conservatives and four by Liberals, making a difference of one on a division. The strength of the Liberals has thus been increased by three since the general election.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH ON THE ALABAMA QUESTION.—Mr. Goldwin Smith has addressed a letter from Ithaca to the editor of the *Beehive*. Remarking that he has been blamed and ridiculed for having treated Mr. Sumner's speech and the demonstrations which followed as affording ground for serious apprehension, Mr. Smith thus proceeds to justify himself:—"Mr. Sumner did not speak merely for himself, being Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, he spoke as the organ of the Senate, which, instead of rejecting the treaty in secret session, according to its custom, threw open its doors that he might denounce and menace England before the world. All his colleagues, except one, voted with him; all who spoke supported and commended him. His speech was received with acclamation, as a faithful expression of the feelings and intentions of the country, by the great organs of public opinion, especially by those connected with the party in power. The antipathy to England had for some time been astiduously cultivated by the press; and the President himself, if the circumstantial statement of the great journal of his own party was to be believed, had expressed sentiments similar to those of Mr. Sumner on the question at issue. The propensities of the Annexationist party had been excited by the insurrection in Cuba; and the annexation of Canada had been propounded in a quarter so influential as to cause alarm to the Canadians themselves. If this state of things was not serious, I do not know what state of things is. There are circumstances in the present condition of this country, and tendencies among certain sections of its people, which, if I am not very greatly deceived, will constitute a standing danger so long as an angry question remains unsettled between the two nations. I know, and in my former letter I recognised the fact, that the American people in general are too sensible and too right-minded to wish for war, but nations very seldom wish for war. They drift through diplomatic complications, and under the influence of excited feelings, into situations in which war becomes inevitable. We were beginning to drift into one of these situations; we should have drifted further if the danger which lay before us had not been distinctly presented to the popular mind; and therefore I believe you will have no reason, as a friend of peace, hereafter to regret your publication of my letter."

THE LOUNGER.

THE polling at Nottingham was curious and puzzling till the explanation came. At nine the numbers stood thus:—Seely, 864; Seymour, 284. At ten, Seely, 1922; Seymour, 649. At twelve, Seely, 2784; Seymour, 1549. This was the last return received when the House met, and the Liberals were in high glee; but the next return, for three o'clock, was—Seely, 4248; Seymour, 3884. At twelve Seely was 1235 ahead, and that Seely was quite safe nobody doubted; but at three his majority was only 468, and, I promise you, the Liberals began to pull long faces. "If," they said, "the majority between twelve and three sunk from 1235 to 468, it will probably vanish before four o'clock." You may be sure the close of the poll was waited for with anxiety. It came by half-past four. Seely was returned; but only by 110. As I have said, all this was puzzling; but the explanation of it has been received, and here it is. Seymour always was, and professes to be now, a Radical; but he is, like his late friend Sir Robert Clifton, against the Irish Church Bill. The Conservatives do not like the man nor his general political principles, and for a long time they refused to support him. At last, however, finding that no Conservative was in the field, they resolved to vote for him, on the simple ground of his opposition to the Irish bill. But they must have his promise to oppose this bill in writing. He demurred. "What! doubt my honour?" &c. But, knowing their man, they stood firm. And when Seymour saw that without Conservative support he stood no chance, he caved in and signed the pledge. And this done promptly, the Conservatives rushed to the poll, and soon brought down Seely's majority; and it is thought by some that, if the compact had been signed before the poll opened, Seymour might have been returned. Clearly, though, there is no reaction at Nottingham. Seymour had all the strength Conservatism could muster—the influence of Sir Robert Clifton's name, which secured for him some hundreds of votes—and yet he is beaten. Mr. Seely is the son of the member for Lincoln, and, like his father, very wealthy. His wealth is derivable from a most profitable mine of "black diamonds."

Mr. William Jackson, the owner of the Clay-Cross colliery, late member for South Derbyshire, is dangerously ill.

Talking about coal-owners brings to my recollection a good story about coals. Important changes are being made at the Admiralty. This has got to be generally known; and, as a consequence, the officials are pestered with volunteer advisers. A week or two back a gentleman called at the Admiralty to give some advice to Mr. Baxter, the Secretary, touching the steam coal which he ought to buy, and the manner in which he ought to buy it. He took a bit of the navy coal with him. Mr. Baxter was not in his office. The gentleman, therefore, leaving his specimen with an official, promised to call again. The next day he fulfilled his promise; saw Mr. Baxter; and, producing the bit of coal, began to explain to the Secretary wherein this sort of steam coal was inferior, and to tell him what sort of steam coal he ought to buy. "This is," he said, "not bad steam coal; but, you see, it ought not to have this sulphur, &c., in it. You should buy, Sir, such-and-such a coal; and you really ought to employ some one who understands coal, to see that you have what you buy delivered." Mr. Baxter, always anxious to get information, listened courteously, and, in the end, promised to consider the subject; and the gentleman retired, much pleased, no doubt, with the Secretary's urbanity, and hopeful that something might come of the interview. And now for the joke. The piece of coal upon which this learned gentleman had discoursed was not the bit of steam coal which he took to the Admiralty. That particular bit had somehow got lost. It was probably put on to the fire by the firelighter, and this bit on which the gentleman lectured was a simple lump of Wallend. The official who had the bit of steam coal in charge, when he came to miss it, thinking that one bit of coal was as good as another, replaced the lost bit by a piece from the coalscuttle; and so it came to be discovered that this learned person did not know hard, smokeless, sea coal from Wallend.

There are some signs of a resuscitation in what may be called real comic literature. The attempts to make up comic periodicals of mere paragraphs each containing a pun or a bon mot, have brought that kind of writing to such a low ebb that the efforts of the authors to be funny have only been exceeded by the laborious endeavours of readers to discover the precise point of the witicism. It would seem, however, that a return to longer and better considered humorous papers may restore something of the real interest we once felt in "our jocular contemporaries." Our old friend *Fun* is leading off with a piece of extravagance called "Petsetilla's Posy," by the author of "Vere Vereker's Vengeance," a book that made London laugh a year or two ago.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

"The Tip Girl" in the *Victoria* is an interesting article, but it is ill-written. The tip girls are colliery girls, and the author of the paper says, "their working garb consists of a hat." But it is the grammatical construction of the author which is at fault, not the decorum of the "tip girls." Talking of grammar, a contemporary, in assigning to Thomson a passage which *Punch* had quoted as from Shenstone, glances with oblique displeasure (at least, it looks so) at Mr. Punch's use of the form *writ* as the perfect of *write*. But *writ* was quite allowable in speaking of Shenstone; and, generally, it may be observed that a great many "locations" which are condemned in passing criticism are good classical English, though not Lindley Murray English. Mr. Punch, at all events, is a scholar, and I should always think twice before venturing to call him over the coals.

The *St. James's* contains an exceedingly fair article about Gladstone. This is especially noticeable in a Conservative periodical; though, in truth, it ought to be a bad, unwelcome compliment to call any magazine fair. Capital, also, is the paper on "Literary Virtue;" a vigorous expression of disgust at those writers in newspapers who trade upon their "virtue," and get up sensational articles of the order usually called *piquante* out of topics of a certain kind, ostensibly in the interest of public morality, but really and truly in order to produce stimulating reading for a certain public. There is another class of "literary virtue" which comes in for a true word also—that kind which will not see wrong when it exists, but throws the blame upon the "prurient" imaginations of others, insisting that "to the pure all things are pure." It looks as if there was a little "animus" in this paper, but it is a very true one.

From the preface to the first volume of *Britannia* we learn that the magazine is already a success. In "The Commentaries of Major Blake" Mr. Burnand is often very good, and once or twice you ask the question, formerly put in this column—why isn't he a good deal better still?

Surely the author of "Papa André" in *Once a Week* is no stranger? Among the notes in the "Table Talk" is one upon bolting your bed-room door at night, for, says the writer, it may save your life. But surely the number of people who are silly enough to leave bed-room doors unbolted except in the case of the bed-rooms of very young children (in which the reasons for leaving the door open are stronger than those for shutting it) must be very small indeed. This magazine is always good, so there is not much need to go into details of praise over it.

The *Student*, as I have said before, is difficult to characterise; but it is one of the best of the periodicals. One would think that at the reading-tables at free libraries it would be welcome.

Those who wish to see, in a picture, an egregious example of a certain French fashion in ladies' dress which is not usually carried so far in England as in the picture, may find one at page 488 of *London Society*. De Verney's "Eton Days" is evidently a paper of genuine reminiscences, and a most degraded notion it gives one of Eton in the good old times. It would not be easy to conceive anything much more demoralising than this sort of thing:—

Breaking bounds is a time-honoured custom at all schools. At Eton the bounds are narrow, but no punishment is inflicted for transgressing them, provided the offence be not brought prominently under the eyes of the

authorities. Hence arises the system of "shirking." If a master is seen approaching—and he can generally be recognised at a distance by the radiance of his white tie—the boys disappear right and left, over hedges and ditches, into shops, or anywhere.

In the following anecdotes the great man is a pisan:—

For the scions of commercial houses, however rich they might be, he entertained but small respect. He would sometimes direct our attention in the following manner to a boy whom he perceived approaching:—

"Is that you, my little Burton? Hope you're getting on in your studies, Sir. I know one of your public-houses in the Isle of Wight, Sir. Your beer's very much liked, Sir. You don't put rats'-bean in it, as some do. Saw a coal-porter last time I was there, waving a pewter pot and calling out, 'Three cheers for Burton's ale!' Did, indeed, Sir?"

"Who is that, Sir? That's Mr. Snookson. They're great cotton manufacturers. Very respectable people, Sir, in their way—oh, very. Never heard nothing at all against them. I believe it's a very good concern. They're not in a small way you know, Sir. Oh, dear no!"

But when a boy of still lower origin was presented to his view he was unable to control his feelings. There were a few sons of rich tradesmen at Eton, and he seemed to think that no such ill-conditioned progeny had a right to come

Between the wind and his nobility:

and took every opportunity of publicly expressing his sentiments.

"Good morning, Sir," he would say with mock politeness, calling general attention to his victim. "Glad to see you back, Sir. Called at your establishment in the vacation; bought some pocket-handkerchiefs there, Sir. Very reasonable, Sir—four shillings a dozen—but I don't find them wash well. Would you like to see one, Sir? Can show it you. Got one in my pocket."

I need not say that the boy addressed did not want to see or hear anything more, and made his escape as quickly as possible from the general laughter and taunts by which he was assailed.

The following is De Verney's opinion of fagging:—

Although disagreeable at the time, I must confess that fagging, like many other trials, was finally productive of good fruits. It not only taught me to clean knives, lay tables, and make toast, but, what was more important, it made me humble, considerate to others, and less sensitive to small injuries and insults.

But is there no way of teaching boys to be "humble, considerate," and forgiving than this of encouraging a set of little scamps to make slaves of another set of younger boys, who will be scamps in their turn? Still worse is the following:—

However unceremonious and pugnacious some of the Eton boys may be, none of them are ever neglectful of the rules of etiquette; and anyone who has any pretensions to popularity needs a strong hand at the commencement of the half. Those who are in the least degree acquainted invariably wish each other "Good-night" as they separate to their respective houses; and should a boy accidentally touch your jacket in going to his place in school or church, he is certain to beg your pardon politely, even although he just punched your head while waiting in the yard outside.

From the evidence taken before the Royal Commissioners, and from stories like De Verney's, we may feel sure that all this is simply true. The disgusting brutalities of "Long Room"—indestructible in print—are at an end; but just notice two or three points in this frank account. Allowed "shirking" was a recognised part of the policy of the school. It was a regular thing that the young "swells" should, immediately or immediately, insult the sons of men in business. And here we have an Etonian openly declaring that, however brutal the boys may be, they were always attentive to points of etiquette. Mr. "De Verney" evidently sees nothing particular in all this; he evidently thinks it rather fine than otherwise; but anything worse could hardly be said of the code of conduct in use anywhere. These wretched little cad prided themselves upon being "gentlemen," and now constitute a part of the working power of society. This number of *London Society* is, decidedly, a good one.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

It would be affectation to pretend that there has been anything to record during the past week.

The CHARING-CROSS THEATRE (lately the Polygraphic Hall) opens on Saturday (to-night) with three new pieces—an operetta, by Messrs. Hime and Carpenter, called "Coming of Age;" a three-act drama by Mr. C. S. Cheltenham; and a new burlesque on "Norma," by Mr. W. S. Gilbert, called "The Pretty Druides; or, the Mither, the Maid, and the Mistletoe Bough." The theatre is about the size of the Prince of Wales's, and in form and decoration strongly resembles that popular place of entertainment. The box and pit entrances are in King William-street, as also is the stage-door; there will be no gallery at present. The company comprises Miss Hughes, Miss Kathleen Irwin, Mr. J. G. Shore, and other favourites.

A new drama by Mr. Tom Taylor, called "Mary Warner," is in rehearsal at the HAYMARKET, and will be produced next week. Miss Burtman will fill the principal part.

The PRINCESS'S will reopen, on Aug. 2, with "Acis and Galatea." All the famous Stanfield effects will be reproduced, and Herr Formes will sustain the part of Polyphemus.

FINE ARTS.

FEMALE ART GALLERY.

A GALLERY in Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury, under the direction of Messrs. E. Fuller and Co., has been for some years past opened for the exhibition of works of art by gentlewomen who desire to find purchasers for their productions. This gallery has now become one of the fine-art exhibitions, and calls for notice because of the many pleasing objects it contains. The articles placed there include oil paintings, water-colour drawings, etchings, wood carvings, and a very capital collection of illuminations. There are some admirable specimens of modelling in gutta-percha by a lady who desires to dedicate the proceeds of her work to a charitable purpose, and there are scores of other productions placed there for sale by ladies who, having so few opportunities of offering their productions to dealers, and being unable to find their way into the regular market, gladly take this opportunity of seeking customers who may, at the gallery in Great Russell-street, buy some very pretty pictures and capital ornaments at a comparatively low price. So much, then, for the gallery; but we confess it would be more satisfactory if the terms on which exhibitors are admitted to its benefits were a little less involved than appears by the circular published to explain the regulations of membership. First, the whole scheme seems subservient to the "Royal Albert Press," which seems to be a kind of school for the employment of women who, we suppose, are taught drawing, or tracing, or other fine-art work, for a consideration. Secondly: a guinea subscription entitles to honorary membership of the gallery, and enables the subscriber to nominate a "working member" for the year, as well as to select the guinea's worth of drawings from the productions of the pupils of the Royal Albert Press, all of whom are considered members, but have to pay a fee of 2s. 6d. a year in advance for expenses of bookkeeping, &c. There seems a little involution here, and one can scarcely avoid coming to the conclusion that, in order to exhibit at the Female Art Gallery, it is necessary either to become a pupil of the "Albert Press" or to find a patron willing to become a guinea subscriber in order to make you a nominee. We do not, of course, call in question the right of Messrs. Fuller and Co. to make their own regulations; but we should be glad to learn that a gallery had been opened for sale of work unfettered by the membership (we assume with fees for tuition) of any particular school of art, under whatever patronage it may claim to have been established.

THE NEW LATIN PROFESSOR AT CAMBRIDGE.—The Rev. Hugh Andrew Johnstone Munro, M.A., who has just been appointed to the Professorship of Latin, recently founded in the University of Cambridge, took his degree in the year 1842, when he was second in the first class of the Classical Tripos and first Chancellor's Medalist. He obtained the Craven Scholarship in 1841, and was subsequently elected to a fellowship at Trinity. He held the office of tutor of the college from 1855 to 1857, and became a Senior Fellow in 1864. Mr. Munro is known as the editor of "Lucretius," with a translation and notes, and of the poem called "Etna," whose authorship is uncertain. These works have established his reputation as one of the first Latin scholars in Europe, if not the first.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, accompanied by Princesses Louisa and Featrice and Prince Leopold, arrived at Windsor Castle on Wednesday morning from Balmoral.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, having recently learned that one of the tenants on a property adjoining the Royal estates on Deeside had been obliged, in self-defence, to protect his crops from the ravages of deer by shooting some of them, at once expressed surprise and regret that any farmer should suffer from such a cause, and gave orders for the immediate erection of fencing necessary to prevent the deer passing from the Royal estates to his lands.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has consented to preside at a public meeting to be held, on Monday next, at the Royal Institution, for the purpose of originating a memorial to the late Professor Faraday.

PRINCE ALFRED, before leaving New South Wales, made a speech in connection with the proposed statue to Captain Cook, and laid the keystone of the central arch of a new post-office at Sydney.

PRINCE ARTHUR arrived at Oban in the Vivid on Saturday from a cruise in the Hebrides. He was loudly cheered by the crowd, and the Town Council presented him with an address. It is stated that the Prince will proceed to Canada in the autumn, where he will be attached to the Rifle Brigade. On his return in the following spring he will probably join a battalion of the same regiment, which will be stationed at Woolwich.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE visited Aldershot on Wednesday, accompanied by a staff from the Horse Guards, and held a grand review of the troops stationed there.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA'S HEALTH is so much improved that his Majesty left Berlin on Sunday afternoon on his journey to Hanover, &c. Count Bismarck accompanied his Majesty.

THE VICEROY OF EGYPT arrived in Paris last Saturday morning, and took up his residence at the Palace of the Elisee. He was received at the railway station by the Turkish Minister, who was also present at the reception which afterwards took place at the Tuileries.

KING FRANCIS II., late of Naples, has arrived in Prague, after having paid a visit to the Emperor Ferdinand, at Plochowitz. It is believed that he will take up his residence permanently in Austria.

THE DUKE OF MONTENAPOLI and his family arrived on Friday week at San Lucar Barrameda, their summer residence in Andalusia.

MR. ALFRED TENNYSON and Mr. Frederick Locker have left London for a short tour in Switzerland.

SIR S. BAKER PACHA'S FORCE for the conquest of Soudan will consist of two regiments of infantry, each 600 strong; one regiment of irregulars, 600 strong; two regiments of cavalry, each 450 strong; two light batteries, and one heavy battery—in all a force of some 3300 men.

THE ARCHDEACON OF ROCHESTER, in his visitation charge at Hertford last week, said he looked upon the abolition of compulsory church rates without regret, believing that it would tend to make laymen more sensible of the responsibilities which rested upon them, and to unite the clergy and the laity more heartily in doing the Church's work.

THE GREAT EASTERN, with the French Atlantic cable on board, cleared all dangers at the entrance of the Thames in the course of Sunday afternoon, and will commence laying the cable as soon as weather permits.

MR. ROMAINE, the Second Secretary to the Admiralty, has accepted the appointment of Judge Advocate-General in India, offered to him recently by the Duke of Argyll. Mr. Romaine was Deputy Judge Advocate in the Crimea, and at the end of the war was appointed Second Secretary to the Admiralty by Sir Charles Wood.

MR. CHARLES SEELY, son of the hon. member for Lincoln, has been elected to fill the vacancy in the representation of Nottingham caused by the death of Sir Robert Clifton. The candidate of the Conservative and Independent party was Mr. Digby Seymour, Q.C. The proceedings throughout were very disorderly. The declaration of the poll took place on Wednesday, in the presence of some 15,000 persons, who made a great deal of noise. Mr. Seely's majority was 110.

A TERRIBLE CYCLONE OCCURRED AT CALCUTTA on the 9th inst., and lasted sixteen hours. Great damage was done to the native craft on the river, and it is supposed that there has been considerable loss of life.

MAJOR W. J. WILLIAMSON, in one of his reports to the Commissioner of Cooch Behar, mentions that when a Garow father is killed by a tiger—apparently a not uncommon mode in those parts of shuffling off the mortal coil—the sons change their names, in order to throw the tiger off the scent of their identity, in case he should have a rooted hostility to the family.

THE COTTON MILLS AT OLDHAM were thrown open on Monday, with the view of giving the hands an opportunity of returning to their employment at the reduction of 5 per cent. There was a very general return to work, and everything was quiet.

IN FALKIRK, and in some of the districts east from it, there was snow on Sunday last. In Polmont the fall was so considerable in the neighbouring fields that it could be gathered into little hills.

THE EVELINA HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, which has been erected in the Southwark Bridge-road, by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, in memory of his wife, was opened on Tuesday. The hospital is capable of accommodating one hundred beds, and will shortly be ready for thirty patients.

A GREAT PEACE AND MUSICAL FESTIVAL AT BOSTON (U.S.), was opened on Tuesday. President Grant, several Cabinet Ministers, and Mr. Thornton, the British Ambassador, with many other distinguished guests, being present.

A SERIOUS OUTRAGE has been perpetrated at Ballinlough, about four miles from Cork. Four men, each with a revolver, entered the house of a gentleman named Grey, and demanded arms. Mr. Grey, although in an infirm state of health, fired at the leader of the gang, and mortally wounded him, his confederates suddenly taking their departure. The man, who refuses to disclose the names of his associates, is not expected to live.

THE HURRICANE OF TUESDAY has been very destructive to fishing and other craft on the north-east coast and in the Firth of Forth. It is feared that the loss of life has been great.

A BOY NAMED PATRICK HUTTON, ten years of age, died the other day from drinking a quantity of whisky which he stole from a cask at a public-house door in Ballinlough, in the county of Cavan, Ireland.

ONE OF THE MISSING BOATS OF THE BLUE JACKET, a vessel that was burned at sea, has been picked up. It contained only seven people, and no mention is made of the 4000 sovereigns put in the boat when she left the ship.

A SMALL FARMER named Flynn, residing at Drumcollop, in the county of Leitrim, four miles from Mohill, was killed on Saturday night in a dispute with a person named Cassidy about cutting turf. His skull was fractured with a spade.

FIVE GENTLEMEN resident at Baling have resolved to make, early in September next, a complete tour of the coast of England, Scotland, and Wales, on bicycles; and one of them has undertaken to perform on one day of the journey one hundred miles upon his velocipede, for a wager of as many sovereigns.

THE NATIONAL REFORM UNION is organising a great demonstration, to take place in the event of the Lords rejecting the Church Bill. It will be held in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, under the presidency of Mr. George Wilson. About twenty members of Parliament have already promised to attend.

AN IRON ARMOUR-CLAD WAR-STEAMER, of 1400 tons burden, built for the Turkish Government, was launched from the Messrs. Samuda's yard at Poplar last Saturday afternoon. The vessel was named the *Mojini Zaffer*, or the "Aid to Victory," and is constructed to carry four 12-ton Armstrong guns in a central battery. Her length is 236 ft., her breadth 35 ft. 6 in., and her utmost rate of speed will be fourteen knots an hour.

MR. FINNEY, the general manager of the English Joint-Stock Bank, was again examined before the Lord Mayor, last Saturday, on the charge of perjury, and, after some evidence against him had been taken, was committed for trial. The defendant reserves his defence. He was admitted to bail.

TWO PERSONS NAMED MURRAY, who were recently arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the murder of Mr. Anketell, have been again remanded by the magistrates. It is stated that additional evidence has been obtained, and that the authorities entertain some hope that they may ultimately be enabled to bring the murderer to justice.

LEWIS MIDSON, the landlord of the Chequers Inn, near Harrow, who shot his wife in a quarrel, was re-examined at the Hammersmith Police Court, on Monday, and was committed for trial on the charge of murder. It will be remembered that the Coroner's jury returned a verdict of manslaughter, believing that the deed was the result of a sudden provocation offered by the wife.

A DEPUTATION from the Metropolitan Board of Works waited upon Mr. Bruce, on Monday, to present a memorial against the Municipal Corporations (Metropolis) Bill and the London Corporation Bill. The deputation stated that they were of opinion that the bill was not calculated to improve the government of the metropolis, and that they preferred the plan indicated in the recommendations of the House of Commons Select Committee in 1867. Mr. Bruce said the matter would receive the careful attention of himself and colleagues.

TINTAGEL CHURCH, CORNWALL, one of the most ancient and interesting in England, is about to undergo repair and restoration. Many eminent artists have most generously contributed paintings and drawings, which are now to be seen at Messrs. Colnaghi's, in Pall-mall, and are for sale. The south transept, which will be henceforth called the "Painters' Transept," will be entirely restored, through the liberality of these gentlemen. Mr. Poole, R.A., Mr. S. Palmer, Mr. Duncan, Mr. T. Danby, Mr. Nash, and Mr. Knight are amongst the contributors.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS ON THE OPENING NIGHT OF THE IRISH CHURCH DEBATE.

INTERESTING as were the circumstances under which the Peers commenced the debate upon the second reading of the Irish Church Bill, on Monday evening, the excitement was not very strongly manifested outside the walls of their Lordships' House. St. Stephen's Hall, it is true, was tolerably well filled with candidates for admission to the Strangers' Gallery of "the Lords." There was a crowd of some fifty or sixty people at the head of the steps leading from Westminster Hall, and in the hall itself there were several groups of persons who had gathered together to witness the progress of the peers to their Chamber. In Old Palace-yard a more considerable crowd had assembled, and those noble Lords who made their entry into the Palace of Westminster by what is commonly called "The Peers' Entrance" drove or rode through a double line of people, who were kept within due limits by a small force of police, specially appointed to this duty. Possibly even these groups were not animated by any very strong political interest. Long before the first distinguished member of the House of Lords arrived carriage after carriage had set down bevy of elegantly-dressed ladies; and it may well be doubted whether curiosity as to poplins, and silks, and muslins, and the admiration of brilliant violets, delicate pinks, and striking blues had not more to do with the muster than any anxiety as to the ultimate fate of the Church Bill or any special concern as to the appearance of the men in whose hands it momentarily rests. The peers are evidently not so well known to a London crowd as are the members of the House of Commons; and very many distinguished members of the Upper House passed without recognition. For instance, Earl Spencer, who rode up, followed by his groom, got off his horse a few yards from the porch, and no one seemed to be aware that the tall gentleman with the fine beard, who stepped so quietly along the pavement, was no less a personage than the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Lord Ellenborough and Lord Grey passed equally without observation. Lords Derby and Malmesbury, however, were both recognised, and both were warmly cheered. Soon after they had passed there approached an open barouche, having for its sole occupant an elderly lady in staid, if not sombre, apparel. The word was speedily passed that this was Viscountess Beaconsfield, and the cheers which greeted the wife of the leader of the Opposition were more hearty and more general than those which were evoked by the two noble Lords just mentioned. The Duke of Cambridge, who drove down his inimitable cobs, passed without observation; but the Prince of Wales's brougham was at once recognised, and his Royal Highness received the warmest cheer of all.

Within the House the scene was both striking and brilliant. As early as five o'clock a very large number of peers were in their places, and the side galleries were completely filled with ladies in the most elegant summer toilettes. Some years ago Lord Redesdale, irritated by the too evident presence of the peeresses and their friends—exasperated, perhaps, by the circumstance that the fair strangers paid but little attention to his own speeches—invidiously compared the House of Lords on a great debate night to a place of resort of more popularity than respectability. Few persons have been found to admit the justice of the noble Lord's comparison; and hardly anyone who has been present on any of those great occasions will dispute that the infinite variety of colour which is displayed in the side balconies adds much to the beauty of the "gilded chamber." Never was this variety greater, never were the colours more brilliant, than on Monday. The most prominent and apparently the most popular colour with the ladies was blue of one shade or another, but there were some very rich hues of violet which contrasted admirably with the cool greens in which other ladies had dressed themselves. Only the author of the *Court Circular* could record the celebrities of fashion who held court in the galleries. Let it be enough to mention that Lady Spencer was conspicuous on the Ministerial side of the House by a groseille poplin (said to be of Irish manufacture), and that not far from her sat the wife and daughter of the Prime Minister, the former in blue and the latter in pink silk. As soon as the Strangers' Gallery was opened, there was a regular stampede for seats; and old men and young men in white neckcloths, and men in brilliant scarves, came rushing, and in some instances tumbling, towards the front, in order to obtain good places. Some of the seats were not easily kept even when won, and for a few minutes there was a good deal of disputing as to rights and possession. The portion of the gallery appropriated to the accommodation of foreign Ministers was not so full as we have seen it; but Mr. Motley, the American Minister, was there, with two ladies. The boxes devoted to the reception of "the Commons" were crowded, and there was a great number of members of the Lower House at the bar. The space below the throne was well filled; but at first there were not many distinguished politicians among its occupants. Mr. Monsell and Lord Castlereagh were upon the steps of the throne; but none of the leaders of either political party in the other House were to be found there. Later in the evening Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli both looked in, and, at different times, stood for a moment at the rails.

The fifteen minutes between five o'clock and a quarter past was entirely occupied with the presentation of petitions, all of them upon the subject of the Irish Church Bill, and most of them against it. Very frequently half a dozen peers were at the table at a time, and the gentle murmur of their voices rose through the hum of conversation as the rolling of the waves breaks through the howling of the storm. Only one noble Lord contrived to make the statement of his petition audible, and that was the Marquis of Westmeath, whose voice, like that of some old sibyl prophesying ruin and dismay, rose shrill and sharp upon the air. All through this time peers were rapidly arriving, and soon the benches on both sides of the House were well occupied. Before the time for the commencement of public business arrived the Conservative seats were quite full; but on the Ministerial benches there were many vacant places. Even the front bench was not quite full; but Earl Granville, the Duke of Argyll, and Lords Clarendon, Spencer, Kimberley, and De Grey faced the Earls of Derby and Malmesbury, Lords Cairns and Chelmsford, who occupied the most prominent seats upon the principal Opposition bench. Lord Cairns still retained the place of leader, and the Earl of Derby contented himself with theseat at the end of the bench, separated by only a narrow gangway from the Earl of Ellenborough. The Marquis of Salisbury and Lord Carnarvon occupied their usual seats below the gangway; and Lord Grey was to be found upon the cross benches; but Earl Russell had moved up from his general position, and sat at the table beside Lord Redesdale. The episcopal benches were well covered with the wearers of lawn sleeves, and no less than seven-tens or eighteen archbishops and bishops, including the Archbishops of Canterbury, York, and Dublin, and the Bishops of Oxford and Manchester—the latter a rare attendant in the House of Lords—were in their places. The Duke of Cambridge entered the House soon after five o'clock, and was speedily followed by the Prince of Wales, who looked remarkably well after his travels. As his Royal Highness passed to his seat on the front cross bench, he stopped to shake hands with Lords Granville and Spencer; and this circumstance seemed to strike terror into the minds of some "Orange" visitors to the Strangers' Gallery, who were heard to moan "He's shaking hands with Lord Granville; he is speaking to the Lord Lieutenant."

CONVOCAION.—Both Houses of Convocation assembled on Tuesday. In the Upper House some discussion took place on what are sometimes called the "damnable clauses" of the Athanasian Creed; and in the Lower House Archdeacon Denison presented a gravamen protesting against the principle of the Irish Church Disestablishment Bill. The Upper House did not sit on Wednesday. In the Lower House the members, by a majority of 29 against 16, declined to enter upon a discussion, pure and simple, of the Irish Church Bill; but afterwards, by 29 to 13, consented to entertain a motion expressive of indignation at the refusal of the Government to permit the Irish Convocation to assemble at the present crisis. An *articulus cleri* was ultimately adopted praying the Upper House to take steps to obtain the consent of the Crown for the Irish Convocation to assemble.

A CELEBRITY OF LEIPSIK.

His name is Murphy. Not that in his honest eye there glows any especial antipathy to the Romish Church; in fact, he is partially descended from one of those noble representatives of the St. Bernard Convent; while, on the other side, he belongs to the brave and renowned race who preserve their integrity in the still primitive colony of Newfoundland. It is a happy admixture, this, of courage, fidelity, and intelligence, with vast physical prowess; and those who have once been introduced to Murphy are proud of his acquaintance—prouder still of his friendship. Those who have the privilege of his closest intimacy, and who are called by courtesy his masters, designate his particular race as the Leonberger breed; and in the course of a short but confidential interview with the noble fellow, the Artist, to whom we are obliged for a few particulars, induced him to sit for the portrait which we gladly publish in our pages as the souvenir of a grand and yet grateful, courageous and yet docile, individual, with qualities which might be an example

to many of us, and a noble pride of birth joined to a humility of carriage that surely indicates the best breeding and the most finished politeness.

With regard to his so-called owners, the fact is that it is they who belong to him, for no man ever began by being the master of a dog without finding, at some period or other, that the dog had become his master. All one's leisure is more or less devoted to the canine friendship, which requires to be consolidated with paunches and biscuit, or "greaves," and can only be maintained by "runs" in the evening, or "swims" in the afternoon, or "scampers" in the morning. Then the education which is usually considered indispensable to complete doghood is no light task, whatever form it may take. The gentlemen who have the honour to be owned by our friend Murphy, of Leipzig, devote themselves to combine amusement with the kind of instruction which is most calculated to increase the value of their patron, as a guard to the house and an intrepid assailant of evil-disposed persons. Thus they have adopted the notable device of dressing up a remarkable figure, with what may

be termed in the language of the stage "practical arms," and sticking it against a fence. Unhappily these gentlemen, who perhaps have lively recollections of their university experiences, have imparted to their lay figure the unmistakable appearance of a professor, with gloves, travelling-cap, and spectacles. It is a defective education for Murphy which results in his readiness to attack a guy of such eminent respectability, and we can only hope that no austere and abstracted tutor may pass that way when the Leonberger is abroad, and, standing for a moment's contemplation with his back to the garden-fence, find himself suddenly converted into dog's-meat by a too zealous desire on Murphy's part to assert those discriminative faculties which his friends have striven to cultivate. Their excuse is that they are only suggesting to him that he shall help them against any personal foe, and that the guy is only supposed to be their opponent in a sudden attack, in which case Murphy comes to the rescue, and can be either asked to aid or induced to withhold his assistance at a word. It may be so; but suppose there should ever come a time when he acts on his



A CELEBRITY OF LEIPSIK.

own impressions, and a learned professor should be immolated, the consequences might be awkward, even though the venerable gentleman might be afterwards regarded as a victim to the cause of progress and education.

THE PALMERSTON STATUE AT SOUTHAMPTON.

An event which had been looked forward to with a good deal of interest in Southampton was consummated on the 2nd inst., as already announced in our columns, in the unveiling of a statue of the late Lord Palmerston. This monument to the memory of the well-remembered friend and neighbour of the people of Southampton was raised by public subscription, and has been placed in a conspicuous position on East Marlands Field. It is executed in Sicilian marble, by Mr. T. Sharp, of London, and stands on a plinth of polished granite. The figure is little more than lifesize, representing the noble Lord robed and in an oratorical attitude; but the sculptor having evidently sought to give that happy and genial expression to the countenance which was so characteristic of the noble Lord, he has succeeded better in that particular than in the pose of the figure and proportion of the limbs. A large assembly of the people stood around at the unveiling. The ceremony began by the arrival of a civic procession, headed by the mace-bearers, preceding the Mayor, the Earl of Carnarvon; the Hon. W. Cowper, M.P.; Mr. Acland, M.P.; and members of the Corporation. On their arrival, Mr. F. Perkins, the Mayor, in a well-delivered speech, dilated on the estimable

characteristics of the departed statesman, especially in his relationship with that town and district. Lord Carnarvon, before ordering the statue to be unveiled, spoke of Lord Palmerston as a man on whom party politics did not shut out friendly feelings. Times of political change and transition were the most difficult to live in, and those statesmen who by their intellect and character bridge over these transitional periods, and so render the passage of society easier and safer, deserve the gratitude of their country. Such was Lord Palmerston. He lived between the older society which we can hardly remember, and the beginning of the new society of which we form part. Emphatically an Englishman, as much in his faults as in his virtues, he was impressed with the necessity for gradual change, and saw, at the same time, that those changes should be made in a moderate spirit. At the conclusion of the noble Earl's speech the statue was unveiled, amid the loud cheers of the people.

THE MADRID VOLUNTEERS OF LIBERTY.

As our readers know, when the revolution took place in Spain, in September of last year, large numbers of the people of Madrid formed themselves into a body, which they designated the Volunteers of Liberty. This corps included in its ranks men of all grades in society except the highest, but principally consisted of working men, mingled with persons of both doubtful character and position. Much apprehension was for a time entertained as to the use some of the volunteers might make of the arms they had obtained; but, on the whole, the men behaved remarkably well. Gradually the

corps was weeded of its questionable members, and was regularly regimented and uniformed, as shown in our Engraving. The body is composed of several corps, each being distinguished by some special feature of dress or equipment.

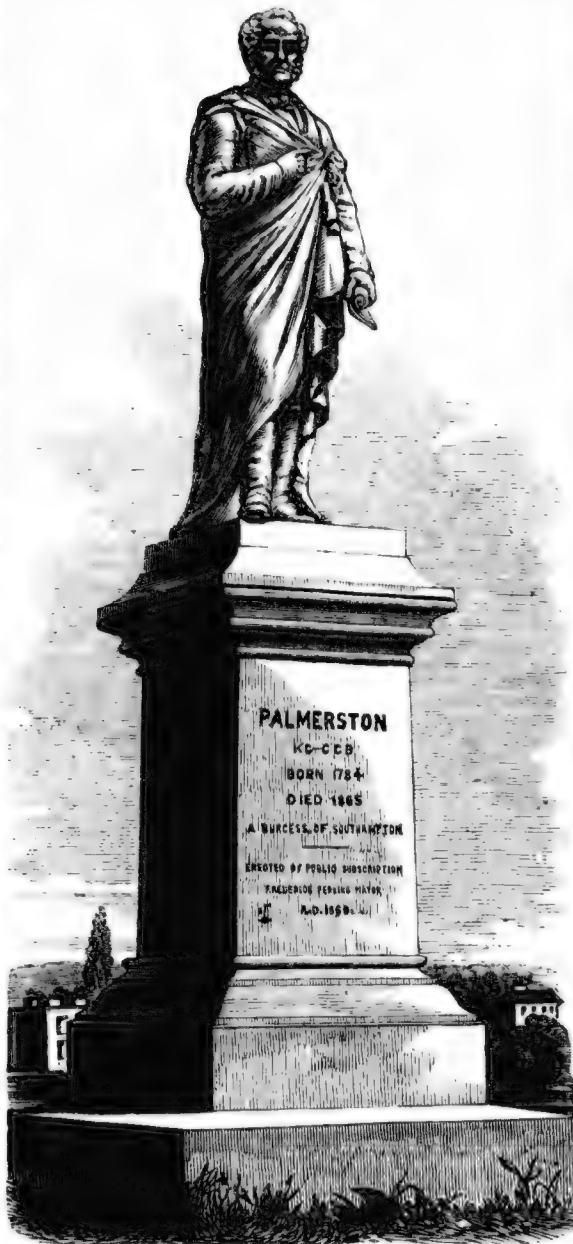
THE GREAT PARIS HORSE-RACE.

THE Derby, our great English racing saturnalia, has been described so often that the theme begins to pall upon public attention. It may be interesting, however, to obtain some notion of the corresponding turf festival in France, when the Grand Prix de Paris is run for. This event came off on the 6th inst., and the incidents connected therewith are thus described by a correspondent:—

"The sun from an early hour shone out brightly, and the cloudless sky gave promise of a continuance of fine weather. The Administration, in its solicitude for the strangers who had come for the races to see Paris to the greatest disadvantage, had given orders for the avenues and gardens on the way to Longchamps to be well watered before noon, so that the turf, the flowers, and the shrubs looked as fresh as in the month of April. Towards twelve o'clock the roads began to fill. That greater Rotten-row, the Avenue de l'Impératrice, was crowded with people belonging to the *petite bourgeoisie*, laden with little baskets of provisions for dinners on the sod, and all hastening on to the 'wood.' But the popular jovial character of the road to Epsom is wanting on the road to Longchamps. In the early part of the day you

chiefly see that most uninteresting class of people in the world—the shopkeeping class of Paris, in whom the increased pressure of rent and taxes has rooted more firmly the special vices of character described by Balzac. Each carriage is either filled by a party of young men or by a prosy bourgeois and his family, consisting of the wife in Sunday clothes, the single son with his semi-military Lycée uniform buttoned up to the throat, and the single daughter, home for the day from her boarding-school. Newly-married couples, or those whose children are yet at nurse in the country, have coupés all to themselves. All those people alight at the end of the Avenue de l'Impératrice to avoid paying the additional fares; and the cabbies either return to town to take up other pleasure-seekers or dash on to secure a place not far from the stand. The rest of the journey is performed on shanks' mare. The walk through the trees is delicious on a fine Sunday in June. Hurrying on to a given point, with a fear of being too late to get a spot in which either to sit or stand, one does not pay attention to the 'twigginess' of the trees, or perceive that those rocks over which fall sluggish brooks dug with the spade are of cast iron or M. Coignet's artificial stone. But one delights in the shade, in the strong sunlight breaking in through masses of verdure, and in the wood flowers springing up in the briary thickets planted by M. Alphand. After many twists and turns of the winding alley—after hastening past charming vistas, affording glimpses of antlered deer, confined by wire fences invisible a few yards off—of ponds, and lakes, and headlands, and promontories, and chalets artistically composed with a view to harmonising with the real hills of St. Cloud and Mont Valerian in the background, you come to the plain of Longchamps. This is a beautiful pleasure-ground of about a mile and a half in length. The long field or meadow from which it takes its name originally extended from the Bridge of Neuilly to the Bridge of St. Cloud. On the Paris side it is bounded by the wood, towards which the faces of those who watch the race from the Grand Stand are turned. The three principal avenues leading from Paris to the racecourse converge towards a central point of the plain, or rather vale, of Longchamps. This point is marked by a high mound planted with dwarf pine and fronted with stalactites, over which a stream leaps into a large circular basin bordered with short grass through which many sham rocks run. On the edge of the basin farthest from the cascade stands an old gnarled oak, not quite so picturesque as was Herne the Hunter's, but quite refreshing to English eyes after the twig-like timber of French woods. The different objects here combine prettily with an ivy-clad windmill at about a hundred yards distance. It is all that remains of a convent founded by Blanche of Castile, and rustic bridges abound on the site of Queen Blanche's retreat, along which flows a meandering stream. The Seine makes a semicircular sweep round the "long field," which is divided into two equal parts by the road leading to Suresne. The Seine is not visible from the racecourse, it being concealed by a curtain of poplars and willows. Behind the river rises the hill of St. Cloud, which is covered with parks and villas, the vineyards of Suresne and Mont Valerian, with a redoubt, which in the distance has none of the prose of modern military architecture. On the left of the Avenue de Suresne, and exactly opposite the old windmill, stands the delightful villa of the Prefect of the Seine. It occupies, with its cool shady gardens, a corner of the review ground now known as St. James's, which skirts Lord Hertford's property of Bagatelle. The entrance to the racing-ground is a few yards from the Prefect's, on the other side of the road. A hundred yards or so farther on is a gate, only opened for Imperial carriages, and at its side a turnstile, through which the ring and stands are gained. All the approaches to the ring are through clumps of flowering shrubs and beds of roses. It smacks more of horticulture than of a hippodrome. The two stands contain on the ground floor, looking on the ring, saloons and refreshment-rooms, in which the only luxury wanting is plenty of elbow room. They are open to all the 20th aristocracy. The Emperor's Stand is an isolated chalet, spacious and magnificently furnished. It affords access on one side by easy horsehoe stairs, and the sanded space between it and the course, in which more Royal and Imperial people have walked than in any other place of the sort; and on the other side it communicates with the ring.

"You have now the geography of Longchamps. To complete



THE PALMERSTON MEMORIAL STATUE AT SOUTHAMPTON.

your idea of it, fill the avenues, the walks, the ring, the stands, and the course with a prodigious crowd of genteel vulgarity, mixed up with the aristocracy of all nations, very well dressed, very hard grained, and eager for excitement, but incapable of laughing

heartily. Mistress milliners and dressmakers flock to Longchamps on the Grand Prix Day to pick up a few ideas. One young lady, her hair dyed à la Titien, was followed about by priestesses of fashion who are paid by manufacturers to waste stuff in their creations, all anxious to anatomise a flounce, a crease, or bundle. This divinity was seated in a phaeton formed like a scallop-shell, and drawn by ponies. The young Duchess de Luynes, in an equipage which rivalled that of the Emperor and Empress, was hardly noticed. She affects the severe elegance of the Faubourg St. Germain, which is not what suits either the manufacturers, the dressmakers, or the fast ladies. The inevitable Princess de Metternich, the Countess de Pourtales, the Marquise de Gallifet, formed a kind of court in front of the stands, recruited from the Corps Diplomatique, the haute finance, the Jockey and Imperial Clubs, and Tattersalls'. The Duke of Hamilton seemed to stand aloof from this brilliant party. As the Austrian Ambassador is one of those who give the tone to fashion, those of your readers who take an interest in such things may be glad to hear how she was dressed. Before I saw her face I wondered who the bundle of blue silk, smothered with Honiton lace, could be. There were so few folds about the waist that the mechanism of the *polisson* showed ungracefully. This hump was covered with lace frills and ends of ribbon. The body of the dress was striped in all directions with bars of Honiton; and round a skirt of endless length, tucked up in front and trailing behind, were two deep flounces. The crowning of the edifice was a bonnet composed of a circular frill of blue silk, with a centre-piece of black velvet, surmounted with a blue ostrich-feather, standing in a tuft of bows, from which descended a pair of interminable streamers. A gilded youth paid for the bouquet she took from Isabelle. Horses, you will observe, were the least part of this hippic celebration. Glaneur, Drummer, Consol, and the other thoroughbreds were the short theme on which variations—intricate variations, in no way connected with them—were composed.

"The little Prince Imperial arrived early in an open carriage and four, with a dashing escort of lancers. He had none of his young friends with him. On alighting he was at once conducted to the balcony of the Imperial stand. He looked very well, and is really a nice, gentlemanly lad. The bridge of his nose has greatly risen since his illness, and his resemblance to his mother grows stronger. The Emperor and Empress, with the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia, came shortly before the Grand Prize was run for. Imperial Eugénie was remarkable for the simplicity of her attire. She was in what to unpractised eyes would appear a nankin dress, with a lace frill round her neck, a black lace bonnet and veil, and a green parasol. But a Jewish lady near me, who seemed to know the market value of every costume in the place, said that the Empress's was of Chinese crape, and must have cost 50,000^{fr}. The Emperor was visibly out of sorts, but he seemed more weary than annoyed. When the French horse Glaneur, belonging to M. Lupin, passed by the post fully two lengths ahead of his formidable English rival, Mr. G. Jones's Drummer, two police agents in plain clothes, posted on chairs beneath the Emperor's balcony, raised cries from stentorian lungs of 'Vive l'Empereur! Vive l'Impératrice!' Finding no echo, they seemed astonished, flourished their canes, and with a voice of authority said, 'But, gentlemen, it is a French horse that has won! Vive l'Empereur!' At length the honest leader of the two, conscious of having done his duty for his pay, and disgusted at the failure of his mission, jumped down from his chair breathless and faint, exclaiming in my hearing—and which is an historical fact which I shall never forget, 'Confound the Paris Elections!' The official fugleman—the hero, no doubt, of a hundred similar fights—thus confessed that it is more difficult than he ever knew it before to get up enthusiastic demonstrations for the empire in Paris."

RELIQUES FROM THE HOLY LAND.

THERE is now open at the Dudley Gallery of the Egyptian Hall an exhibition which cannot fail to possess an interest as general as its contents are instructive. The articles constituting the display are for the most part the result of the excavations made by Lieutenant Warren in the East, under the auspices and direction



UNIFORMS OF THE MADRID VOLUNTEERS OF LIBERTY.

of the Palestine Exploration Fund. The collection contains four cases of ancient pottery, one case of jewellery, one of glass, and two or three others which may be described as miscellaneous. Some of the specimens of pottery are in an extraordinarily good state of preservation, both as regards their aspects and integrity. The patterns of some of the vases are surprisingly similar to those of the common earthenware teapots which are used at the present day. The specimens exhibited, which have been dug up in the vicinity of Mount Oliver, Mount Sion, Ophel, Robinson's Arch, under the Tyropean Valley, and in the rock-cut passage of the Virgin's Fountain, are both plain and glazed. Some of the little lamps, which occupy the greater part of one case, are like those in which oil is burnt in our own day. The collection of jewellery comprises a horn, ostensibly silver, worn by Druse women, an inkstand and reeds for pens, and also, by an arrangement which is more suggestive than distinctive, a Samaritan service book. To carvings from Jericho and catapult balls from Jerusalem a separate table is devoted. Some fragments of charred cedar from Jerusalem, the carving of which is considered very valuable in an artistic sense, form conspicuous objects of interest to the visitors generally, while the politician of the period will find his biblical knowledge revived by contemplating relics which at one time had their local habitation in the Cave of Adullam. Mosaics from Sharon and portions of a tessellated pavement do not afford any high degree of interest in an æsthetic sense. Among the articles in the case appropriated to glass are some curious tear-bottles, which, we are informed, were used, as their name indicates, by probably the upper classes of Jerusalem when they thought fit to indulge in weeping. We say indulge, for the little bottles do not certainly suggest any striking association of grief. Of all the groups of articles in the display, the greatest interest of the greatest number will be directed to that in which the canoe stores employed by "Rob Roy" during his recent voyage in the East are included. In it are his medicine-chest, his toilet implements, a spirit lamp, and some bread and biscuit, which are described as "unconsumed stores" of various exploring expeditions. In juxtaposition with these are a pelican shot by the enterprising outman, and several other souvenirs of his last eventful visit to the East; a crab from the sea of Galilee, Dead Sea apples, roses from Jericho, a little pyx of mamma, fragments of rock and acacia wood from Mount Sinai, and a specimen of fish skin, supposed to be identical with the badgers' skin with which the tabernacle was covered, constitute, as may be readily understood, a very miscellaneous group of curiosities, which recall some of the most remarkable associations connected with the history of Palestine. The names and positions of the places whence the articles have been dug out are made intelligible to the uninitiated by a large model and plan of Jerusalem, lent to the committee by Colonel Sir H. James, R.E., F.R.S., Director-General of the Ordnance Survey.

OBITUARY.

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY.—Lord Stanley of Alderley died shortly before ten o'clock on Wednesday night, at the family residence in Dover-street. The deceased Right Hon. Edward John Stanley, Baron Stanley of Alderley, in the county palatine of Chester, and Baron Eddisbury of Winnington, in the same county, in the Peerage of England, was the eldest son of John Thomas, first Baron Stanley of Alderley, by his wife, Lady Maria Josepha Holroyd, eldest daughter of John, first Earl of Sheffield, and was born Nov. 18, 1802. He married, Oct. 6, 1826, the Hon. Henrietta Maria Dillon, eldest daughter of Henry Augustus, thirteenth Viscount Dillon. He had been for many years politically associated with the Whig party. Soon after completing his education at Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated B.A. in 1825, he was elected representative for Hendon in the House of Commons in 1831, and, much to the displeasure of the constituents of that borough, voted on the Reform Bill in 1832 for its disfranchisement. In 1832 he was the chosen representative for North Cheshire, which division of the county he represented till 1841, and again from 1847 till his elevation to the Peerage as Lord Eddisbury. A man of most diligent business habits, and a useful departmental man, and greatly esteemed by his immediate political friends, yet he had never displayed remarkable ability either in the House of Commons or the upper branch of the Legislature. He had held office under some of the best contemporary statesmen; for he had been Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies from March, 1833, to July, 1841; was Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department from July to November, 1834, having previously held the onerous office of Secretary to the Treasury from April, 1835, to June, 1841; and afterwards Paymaster-General up to September in that year. The deceased nobleman was Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs from July, 1846, to February, 1852; he was Vice-President of the Board of Trade and Paymaster of the Forces for a few weeks in 1852 and from January, 1853, to March, 1855; was President of the Board of Trade from July, 1855, to February, 1858; Postmaster-General from September, 1860, to July, 1866. When Mr. Gladstone came into office Lord Stanley of Alderley was preferred a seat in the Cabinet, which he held during two other administrations; but, owing to his delicate health, he was compelled to decline joining the Administration. He succeeded in the peerage by his eldest son, the Hon. Henry Edward John Stanley, born in 1827, who has been in the diplomatic service since 1851, and latterly was Secretary of Legation at Athens.

SIR ROBERT GARRETT.—Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Garrett, K.C.B., K.H., Colonel of the 43rd Regiment, died, on Sunday, in his seventy-fifth year. Sir Robert served in the Peninsula from May, 1811, until the end of 1813, when he was sent to England for recovery from wounds he had received in the Pyrenees. He commanded a brigade in the Fourth Division before Sebastopol from November, 1854, to October, 1855, when he succeeded to the command of the division, and held it until the final evacuation of the Crimea. He afterwards commanded a division of the Bengal army from 1858 to 1862.

MR. DRINKWATER MEADOWS.—Another of our old actors has passed away. Mr. Drinkwater Meadows, for many years a prominent comedian at Covent Garden Theatre, where he made his first appearance as Scrub, in "The Beaux Stratagem," in September, 1821, died at his residence, Prairie Cottage, Barnes, on Saturday last, at the age of seventy-five. His last engagement was at the Princess's Theatre, in 1862, after which he quietly retired from the profession in which he had so long preserved the esteem of the public and the warm personal regard of a large circle of friends. Mr. Drinkwater Meadows had been for a considerable period the secretary of the Covent Garden Theatrical Fund, the very responsible duties of which office he discharged with a zeal, courtesy, and fidelity that will add to the honours attached to his memory and increase the regret with which his loss will be regarded.

THE COURTS OF JUSTICE SITE.—The *Law Journal* understands that great efforts are being made to effect a compromise between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Sir (founder) Palmer with respect to the site of the new Courts of Justice. The first meeting between these two gentlemen, which was held under the auspices of a member of the Conservative party, resulted in widening the breach between them. Since that date pressure has been put upon Mr. Lowe by leading members and supporters of the Government, and there is now a strong probability that the advocates of the Carey-street site will ultimately win the victory.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.—An accident, unfortunately attended with fatal results, occurred late on Tuesday night, near to the Wickham station on the Witham and Maldon branch of the Great Eastern Railway. The last down train was proceeding to Maldon, and when near the Wickham station the engine suddenly ran off the line, dragging the train after it into an adjoining field. The stoker of the engine was killed, the driver seriously injured, and several of the passengers violently shaken. A rumour was at one time current that one of the passengers had been killed also; but this appears to be incorrect, a broken arm being the most severe injury received by any of the passengers. A telegraphic message was sent to Stratford for aid, and in the course of the night the company's engineer, with several subordinates, proceeded by special train to the scene of the disaster.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE attempt to increase the repertory of the Royal Italian Opera by adding to it the masterpiece of Signor Cagnoni has not proved successful. "Don Bucephalo" has been heard for the first and last time in England; and for the present there is evidently no intention of looking to contemporaneous Italy for new works. If the new opera has failed, the new singer, for whom it has evidently been produced, cannot be said to have succeeded. Signor Bottero's most ambitious performance has been in the character of Don Basilio in "Il Barbiere"—a sufficiently eccentric personage, if fairly represented, and whose peculiarities certainly stand in no need of exaggeration. Nevertheless, Don Basilio, as if the grotesque appearance rightly belonging did not suffice, becomes in the hands of Signor Bottero a mere caricature. It matters very little, however, who represents Don Basilio, when the Rosina is Madame Patti. Madame Patti has no superior in any one character; but in the part of Rosina no one seems to have thought it possible even to approach her. She is certainly quite as great in sentimental and dramatic parts as in those belonging to light comedy; but it so happens that in the latter she reigns not only supreme but unchallenged. In addition to other advantages, it may be fairly said of Madame Patti that her talent is more complete than that of any lyrical artist of the day. Hitherto the season at the Royal Italian Opera has consisted of a series of performances for prima donnas—Patti nights, Nilsson nights, nights devoted to Titiens and Patti combined. Besides appearing as Rosina, Madame Patti has been heard of late as Norina, in "Don Pasquale;" as Ninetta, in "La Gazza Ladra;" and as Zerlina, in "Don Giovanni." Mdlle. Nilsson's most recent impersonations have been Margherita, in "Faust;" Lucia, in the opera of that name; and Violetta, in "La Traviata." Of Mdlle. Nilsson's performance in the two former characters we have already spoken; nor is it necessary to recur once more to her refined and, as far as that is possible, very ladylike representation of Violetta in "La Traviata"—a personage whose outward demeanour is doubtless more ladylike than her actual conduct. M. Ambroise Thomas's "Hamlet" has been for some time in rehearsal, and is to be produced to-night (Saturday).

The *Saturday Review* stated a few weeks ago that, besides "Hamlet," with Mdlle. Nilsson in the principal part, there is, or was at one time, some chance of another new opera being brought out, with Madame Patti in the chief character. The work which was to have been so favoured is no other than "Mignon," also the composition of M. Ambroise Thomas, who seems for the moment to have usurped in popularity the place of M. Gounod. Another contemporary calls attention to the fact that since "Mignon" was first produced, a couple of years ago, at the Opéra Comique, with Madame Galli-Marié in the principal part, no less than three of the most distinguished prima donnas have taken a fancy to that part. Mdlle. Pauline Lucca has actually played it in a version of the opera specially prepared for Germany, and fitted with a new dénouement, so as to suit the taste of the Germans—that of the original French version being too absurd for readers of Goethe's celebrated novel. Mdlle. Nilsson meditates appearing as Mignon in an Italian version, to be performed this autumn at Baden-Baden; and it seems that the character of Mignon has also fascinated Madame Patti. In the operatic "Faust," Margherita is the principal personage, but Faust is also some one. In "Mignon"—the operatic "Wilhelm Meister," by the same authors as the operatic "Faust" and the operatic "Hamlet"—Wilhelm is quite a subordinate character, and all the interest is centred in the poetic figure of the heroine, who seldom recalls the Mignon of Goethe, but constantly reminds, and is intended to remind, one by her costume, her attitudes, and her general demeanour, of the really very difficult, though scarcely less charming, "Mignon" painted by Ary Scheffer.

Whatever may be done in the matter of "Mignon," it is certain that Madame Patti will appear next week as the heroine in Meyerbeer's delightful opera of "Dinorah"—a part she has not played for several years. "La Gazza Ladra," too, has been revived, with Madame Patti in the character of Ninetta; so that the greatest representative, in the present day, of the Italian school of singing will not, after all, have been quite neglected this season. As Ninetta, Madame Patti has abundant opportunities of exhibiting her high dramatic power, which is quite as remarkable as the power and charm belonging to her as a vocalist. The general cast of the opera is not all that could be wished; but Mr. Santley plays the part of Fernando (Ninetta's father) with great ability, and sings as no representative of Fernando has sung since the time of Tamburini. There is not much humour in Signor Bottero's impersonation of the Podesta; and Mdlle. Grossi, who has a rich voice but a somewhat heavy style, is not very fluent in her delivery of Peppo's music.

At Mr. John Macfarren's grand Friday morning concert (St. George's Hall) the vocalists were Mesdames Liebhart, Banks, Edith Wynne, Patey, and Santon-Dolby; Messrs. Cummings, Garcia, and Patey; the instrumentalists, Mrs. Macfarren, Mr. Benedict, and M. Sainton. Madame Sainton-Dolby sang a new song (M.S.), by Randegger. A new duet by Miss Gabriel, called "Yet once again," was contributed by Mr. and Madame Patey; and a new song by Mori, entitled "The Fairy," a pleasing composition, was effectively sung by Miss Edith Wynne. Miss Robertine Henderson introduced another novelty, called "Wishes," composed by Mr. H. Holmes. Mrs. Macfarren displayed great executive skill and much power of expression in her performance (assisted by M. Sainton) of Beethoven's duet-sonata in E flat. The same artists played also two interesting romances by Walter Macfarren; and a new duet (on motives from Der Freischütz) for two pianos, composed by Mr. Benedict, was performed by the composer in conjunction with Mrs. Macfarren.

Mr. Benedict's annual concert, announced for Wednesday next, at St. James's Hall, promises fully to support the high and special character which it has maintained for the past thirty-three years. Nearly all the great opera-singers are engaged, besides many of our best concert vocalists. The programme comprises a variety of instrumental performances—Madame Norman-Neruda making her last appearance for the season on this occasion.

The *Musical World* cites a mot of Donizetti's which to many of our readers will be new. This maestro's facility in composition is well known. He is said to have taken no more than a week to write his "Don Pasquale." One day somebody told him that Rossini had taken a fortnight to compose "Il Barbiere." "I am not surprised at it," replied Donizetti, laughing, "he is so lazy."

EXAMINATIONS IN SCIENCE BY THE SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT. The annual science examinations of the Science and Art Department were brought to a close on Saturday, May 29. This was the ninth general examination that has been held since the establishment of the system of aid to instruction in science in 1859. The examinations are superintended by local committees. They were in this way held at 437 centres this year, whilst last year they were only held at 261. At that time there were about 15,000 students under instruction, this year there were 25,000; and the number of papers worked shows a similar increase, having risen from 13,112 to 23,997. The number of candidates in the various subjects was as follows:—In geometrical drawing there were 2547, last year there were 1337; in machine drawing 2997, last year 1671; in building, construction, and naval architecture, 1993, last year 1206; in elementary mathematics 2302, last year 1890; in higher mathematics 83, last year 33; in theoretical mechanics 631, last year 353; in applied mechanics 284, last year 167; in acoustics, light, and heat 1350, last year 769; in magnetism and electricity 2480, last year 1038; in inorganic chemistry 2166, last year 964; in organic chemistry 210, last year 124; in geology 600, last year 309; in mineralogy 67, last year 38; in animal physiology 2227, last year 1182; in zoology 303, last year 298; in vegetable anatomy and physiology 144, last year 112; in systematic and economic botany 90, last year 73; in mining 48, last year 41; in metallurgy 120, last year 81; in navigation 303, last year 219; in nautical astronomy 107, last year 86; in steam 148, last year 106; and in physical geography 2786, last year 1516. This is the first examination at which the scholarships of £100 per annum, founded by Mr. Whitworth, have been competed for. There have been about 120 candidates for them, and as soon as the results of all the theoretical examinations have been made known the practical examination will be proceeded with in the manner detailed in the minute of the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education.

TERRIBLE COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

FERNDALE COLLIERY, Glamorganshire, has again been the scene of a terribly fatal explosion. This sad event occurred on the morning of Thursday week, June 10, and has happily turned out to be a little less fatal than was at first supposed. But, as about sixty lives have been lost, the event is sufficiently appalling. The following particulars are from the *Western Mail*:—"Ferndale, a wild and picture-que spot in the Rhondda Vale, has within the brief period of two years been made the scene of two of the most fatal catastrophes which have occurred in the mining districts of Wales during the present century. Between six and seven o'clock on the morning of June 10 the colliers, of whom 600 are generally employed in the Ferndale pit, situate in the lesser Rhondda Valley, had descended to commence their daily vocation. About half an hour afterwards a vibration of the earth, followed by a faint report, was perceptible to those stationed at the mouth of the pit. Almost simultaneously with these signs, a dense volume of black dust issued from the mouth of the 'down cast' shaft, and it was immediately known by those on the bank that another calamity had visited this fated pit. Mr. Bedlington, the general manager, and Mr. Davies, the local manager, were instantly summoned, and a very few minutes elapsed before they were on the spot. They were joined by a number of the other officials connected with the works; and the news having spread, as such news will, thousands of men, women, and children from all the neighbourhood round flocked to the scene. The excitement was intense, not only in the locality, but throughout the whole district. As rapidly as was possible the uninjured men working in the pits were drawn to the surface. It must be understood that the Ferndale Colliery comprises three separate workings, known respectively as the Duffryn, the Rhondda, and the Blaenllecha headings. These all radiate from one shaft and are on one level. It was in the Duffryn heading that the present explosion took place. This working was uninjured in the great explosion which took place in 1867. The Duffryn heading runs in a south-westerly course towards the Rhondda Vale. The workings have extended about three quarters of a mile. It is not known at what point the explosion took place, but it is supposed to have been towards the centre; and it is conjectured that the cause was the falling of a portion of the roof and an irruption of highly inflammable gas. The men nearest the shaft, which is 280 yards deep, escaped, but those towards the other end were, unfortunately, cut off by the afterdamp. Mr. Bedlington and Mr. Kees, on their arrival, promptly organised an exploring party, the colliers volunteering for the service with their customary willingness and heroism. The first party descended a little before eight o'clock, and by half-past nine ten bodies were brought to the bank. These presented no appearance of having been burnt, but apparently had suffered from the effects of the afterdamp. Calm, and with features perfectly composed, as if they had fallen asleep, they were laid by the pit mouth till eager friends recognised them, when they were tenderly borne to their now desolate homes. Relief parties were told off to continue the search, and bodies continued to be brought up till between twelve and one o'clock, at which hour forty-five bodies had been recovered. Some of these latter presented a sickening spectacle, many of them being shockingly burned. In one or two cases the features of the poor fellows were so charred as to be almost wholly unrecognisable. There was a large number of medical gentlemen on the spot. As soon as the explosion became known, messengers were dispatched on horseback to Aberaman, where the dépôt of Messrs. Davies's colliery is situated. Medical stores were at once dispatched to Ferndale. There were between 2000 and 3000 persons present. Immediately after the accident had become known many of the district clergy arrived at the scene of the catastrophe. Owing necessarily to the amount of confusion which prevailed, the details of the catastrophe are incomplete, and there is small probability that the real facts will become known for some days. Mr. Wales, the Government Inspector of Mines for this district, was in attendance shortly after the occurrence, but, so far as could be learned, he was unable to give any definite information as to the origin of the explosion. Efforts were made to obtain information as to the cause from many of the experienced men who during the day went down the pit for the purpose of directing the exploring parties, but nothing could be gleaned from them. The common report was, as we have stated above, that the explosion resulted from the fall of a portion of the roof, but none of the officials who had been down in the pit would say whether it was so or not. The gentlemen who directed the searching parties were Mr. Kerkhouse, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Hugh Begg, Mr. Caruew, and Mr. Jones. Their zeal cannot be too highly spoken of, nor can too much praise be accorded to the colliers who so bravely volunteered to engage in the perilous work of rescuing their more unfortunate fellow-labourers."

It is stated, and perhaps the fact may turn out to be the true cause of the disaster, that an unlocked safety-lamp has been found in that portion of the workings where the explosion occurred.

FORTIFICATION OF HELVELLYN AND BEN LOMOND.—It is announced that those interested in the profuse expenditure of the taxpayers' money intend to urge on the Government the fortification of Helvellyn, Ben Lomond, Macgillivuddy's Reeks, and other already impregnable natural fastnesses of this country; in other words, and apart from either just or uncertainty, the Government are to be urged to expend a further sum of money on those useless fortifications of barren rocks in the Channel Islands and of inland heights in Great Britain, which have already (thanks to the folly of Lord Palmerston and the indifferent carelessness of John Bull) absorbed about five millions of the nation's cash. Seventeen miles of fortifications are proposed to be built around Portsmouth alone. Recently a well-known M.P. was talking to a friend of the engineer who built some of these foolish "defences," and in reply to the question "Will these be of any good?" he answered, "Not the smallest in the world!" On its being remarked to the engineer that his forts would not be strong enough to bear the heavy guns manufactured for them, he replied, "You are perfectly right. I knew that before; but it was no business of mine to point out their weakness. I have taken the contract to build them according to plans and specifications, and must carry out the work accordingly." Possibly it is no business of the engineer to injure his own interests—and for a similar reason neither the military authorities nor Government employés can be expected to interfere. But it is the concern of the electors and taxpayers; and these should urge unceasingly and perseveringly upon their Parliamentary representatives the duty of protecting them from such intercalary exactions. When millions of Englishmen are suffering distress, such foolish prodigality is absolutely criminal.

AN AFRICAN TRAVELLER.—A Malta correspondent, under date of June 8, sends the following:—"Mr. Gerhard Rohlfs, the African traveller, passed through Malta last week on his return to Berlin from Alexandria. He has lately made a journey from Tripoli to Cyrenaica, and across the Desert to Egypt, some particulars of which may be of interest. Mr. Rohlfs left Tripoli by ship for Benghazi on Feb. 21, and arrived there on the 27th, at four a.m. Thence he proceeded to Tolmeita and Cyrene, taking photographic views, botanising, and making topographical observations. On March 28 he returned to Benghazi, and thence, on April 3, penetrated southwards, following Hamilton's route. The country as far as Arjadalia is very fertile, but is exhausted by the over-taxation of the Turkish Government. He met with numerous caravans of slaves from Fezzan and Audjla. Waddy Fareg is a sinking or depression in the Desert. The great sinking begins at the Bir Rasan, extends southwards of Cyrenaica and the Libyan plateaux as far as Egypt, and is nearly everywhere from 100 ft. to 150 ft. below the level of the Mediterranean. Audjla, Djalio, and Siwa (Jupiter Ammon of the ancients) are all consequently below sea-level. It had been noticed by Cailland, as well as Aristotle, that these places were below the level of Lower Egypt. Mr. Rohlfs was very kindly received by the Arabs at Siwa, which enabled him to copy the hieroglyphics of the great Temple of Agorini, first discovered by Hamilton, while all previous travellers, from Browne to Bogle St. John, had considered the Temple of Ommu-Balda to be the chief temple. Mr. Rohlfs made topographical observations of this oasis, and secured a marble figure of a ram and some coins. He proved the constant temperature of the Fountain of the Sun by means of observations taken by night and day. After a stay of eight days in this celebrated locality he bent his steps through the Desert to Alexandria. The friendly reception of Mr. Rohlfs throughout his route is attributed to the good relations existing between the Egyptian and Prussian Governments. All previous travellers had been ill-treated, and Bogle St. John and Hamilton had even been fired on. Mr. Rohlfs followed the great sinking as far as the well of Morhara. He states that, were a channel cut from the Syrta to this spot, Audjla and Siwa would be covered by the sea, and Cyrenaica and the Libyan plateaux would form a peninsula."

acidifying-vats occupy a vast chamber beneath the

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of the Palestine Exploration Fund. The collection contains four cases of ancient pottery, one case of jewellery, one of glass, and two or three others which may be described as miscellaneous. Some of the specimens of pottery are in an extraordinarily good state of preservation, both as regards their aspects and integrity. The patterns of some of the vases are surprisingly similar to those of the common earthenware teapots which are used at the present day. The specimens exhibited, which have been dug up in the vicinity of Mount Oliver, Mount Sion, Ophel, Robinson's Arch, under the Tyropean Valley, and in the rock-cut passage of the Virgin's Fountain, are both plain and glazed. Some of the little lamps, which occupy the greater part of one case, are like those in which oil is burnt in our own day. The collection of jewellery comprises a horn, ostensibly silver, worn by Druse women, an inkstand and reeds for pens, and also, by an arrangement which is more suggestive than distinctive, a Samaritan service book. To carvings from Jericho and catapult balls from Jerusalem a separate table is devoted. Some fragments of charred cedar from Jerusalem, the carving of which is considered very valuable in an artistic sense, form conspicuous objects of interest to the visitors generally, while the politician of the period will find his biblical knowledge revived by contemplating relics which at one time had their local habitation in the Cave of Adullam. Mosaics from Sharon and portions of a tessellated pavement do not afford any high degree of interest in an æsthetic sense. Among the articles in the case appropriated to glass are some curious tear-bottles, which, we are informed, were used, as their name indicates, by probably the upper classes of Jerusalem when they thought fit to indulge in weeping. We say indulge, for the little bottles do not certainly suggest any striking association of grief. Of all the groups of articles in the display, the greatest interest of the greatest number will be directed to that in which the canoe stores employed by "Rob Roy" during his recent voyage in the East are included. In it are his medicine-chest, his toilet implements, a spirit lamp, and some bread and biscuit, which are described as "unconsumed stores" of various exploring expeditions. In juxtaposition with these are a pelican shot by the enterprising oar-man, and several other souvenirs of his last eventful visit to the East; a crab from the sea of Galilee, Dead Sea apples, roses from Jericho, a little pyx of mamma, fragments of rock and acacia wood from Mount Sinai, and a specimen of fish skin, supposed to be identical with the badgers' skin with which the tabernacle was covered, constitute, as may be readily understood, a very miscellaneous group of curiosities, which recall some of the most remarkable associations connected with the history of Palestine. The names and positions of the places whence the articles have been dug out are made intelligible to the uninitiated by a large model and plan of Jerusalem, lent to the committee by Colonel Sir H. James, R.E., F.R.S., Director-General of the Ordnance Survey.

OBITUARY.

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY.—Lord Stanley of Alderley died shortly before ten o'clock on Wednesday night, at the family residence in Dover-street. The deceased Right Hon. Edward John Stanley, Baron Stanley of Alderley, in the county palatine of Chester, and Baron Eddisbury of Winnington, in the same county, in the Peerage of England, was the eldest son of John Thomas, first Baron Stanley of Alderley, by his wife, Lady Maria Josepha Holroyd, eldest daughter of John, first Earl of Sheffield, and was born Nov. 13, 1802. He married, Oct. 6, 1826, the Hon. Henrietta Maria Dillon, eldest daughter of Henry Augustus, thirteenth Viscount Dillon. He had been for many years politically associated with the Whig party. Soon after completing his education at Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated B.A. in 1825, he was elected representative for Hendon in the House of Commons in 1831, and, much to the displeasure of the constituents of that borough, voted on the Reform Bill in 1832 for its disfranchisement. In 1832 he was the chosen representative for North Cheshire, which division of the county he represented till 1841, and again from 1847 till his elevation to the Peerage as Lord Eddisbury. A man of most diligent business habits, and a useful departmental man, and greatly esteemed by his immediate political friends, yet he had never displayed remarkable ability either in the House of Commons or the upper branch of the Legislature. He had held office under some of the best contemporary statesmen; for he had been Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies from March, 1833, to July, 1834; was Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department from July to November, 1834, having previously held the onerous office of Secretary to the Treasury from April, 1835, to June, 1841; and afterwards Paymaster-General up to September in that year. The deceased nobleman was Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs from July, 1846, to February, 1852; he was Vice-President of the Board of Trade and Paymaster of the Forces for a few weeks in 1852 and from January, 1853, to March, 1855; was President of the Board of Trade from July, 1855, to February, 1858; Postmaster-General from September, 1859, to July, 1866. When Mr. Gladstone came into office Lord Stanley of Alderley was preferred a seat in the Cabinet, which he held during two other Administrations; but, owing to his delicate health, he was compelled to decline joining the Administration. He succeeded in the peerage by his eldest son, the Hon. Henry Edward John Stanley, born in 1827, who has been in the diplomatic service since 1851, and latterly was Secretary of Legation at Athens.

SIR ROBERT GARRETT.—Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Garrett, K.C.B., K.H., Colonel of the 43rd Regiment, died, on Sunday, in his seventy-fifth year. Sir Robert served in the Peninsula from May, 1811, until the end of 1813, when he was sent to England for recovery from wounds he had received in the Pyrenees. He commanded a brigade in the Fourth Division before Sebastopol from November, 1854, to October, 1855, when he succeeded to the command of the division, and held it until the final evacuation of the Crimea. He afterwards commanded a division of the Bengal army from 1858 to 1862.

MR. DRINKWATER MEADOWS.—Another of our old actors has passed away. Mr. Drinkwater Meadows, for many years a prominent comedian at Covent Garden Theatre, where he made his first appearance as Scrub, in "The Beaux Stratagem," in September, 1821, died at his residence, Prairie Cottage, Barnes, on Saturday last, at the age of seventy-five. His last engagement was at the Princess's Theatre, in 1862, after which he quietly retired from the profession in which he had so long preserved the esteem of the public and the warm personal regard of a large circle of friends. Mr. Drinkwater Meadows had been for a considerable period the secretary of the Covent-Garden Theatrical Fund, the very responsible duties of which office he discharged with a zeal, courtesy, and fidelity that will add to the honours attached to his memory and increase the regret with which his loss will be regarded.

THE COURTS OF JUSTICE SITE.—The *Law Journal* understands that great efforts are being made to effect a compromise between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Sir Rounding Palmer with respect to the site of the new Courts of Justice. The first meeting between these two gentlemen, which was held under the auspices of a member of the Conservative party, resulted in widening the breach between them. Since that date pressure has been put upon Mr. Lowe by leading members and supporters of the Government, and there is now a strong probability that the advocates of the Carey-street site will ultimately win the victory.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.—An accident, unfortunately attended with fatal results, occurred late on Tuesday night, near to the Wickham station on the Witham and Maldon branch of the Great Eastern Railway. The last down train was proceeding to Maldon, and when near the Wickham station the engine suddenly ran off the line, dragging the train after it into an adjoining field. The stoker of the engine was killed, the driver seriously injured, and several of the passengers violently shaken. A rumour was at one time current that one of the passengers had been killed also; but this appears to be incorrect, a broken arm being the most severe injury received by any of the passengers. A telegraphic message was sent to Stratford for aid, and in the course of the night the company's engineer, with several subordinates, proceeded by special train to the scene of the disaster.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE attempt to increase the repertory of the Royal Italian Opera by adding to it the masterpiece of Signor Cagnoni has not proved successful. "Don Bucephalo" has been heard for the first and last time in England; and for the present there is evidently no intention of looking to contemporaneous Italy for new works. If the new opera has failed, the new singer, for whom it has evidently been produced, cannot be said to have succeeded. Signor Bottero's most ambitious performance has been in the character of Don Basilio in "Il Barbiere"—a sufficiently eccentric personage, if fairly represented, and whose peculiarities certainly stand in no need of exaggeration. Nevertheless, Don Basilio, as if the grotesque appearance rightly belonging did not suffice, becomes in the hands of Signor Bottero a mere caricature. It matters very little, however, who represents Don Basilio, when the Rosina is Madame Patti. Madame Patti has no superior in any one character; but in the part of Rosina no one seems to have thought it possible even to approach her. She is certainly quite as great in sentimental and dramatic parts as in those belonging to light comedy; but it so happens that in the latter she reigns not only supreme but unchallenged. In addition to other advantages, it may be fairly said of Madame Patti that her talent is more complete than that of any lyrical artist of the day. Hitherto the season at the Royal Italian Opera has consisted of a series of performances for prima donnas—Patti nights, Nilsson nights, nights devoted to Titiens and Patti combined. Besides appearing as Rosina, Madame Patti has been heard of late as Norina, in "Don Pasquale;" as Ninetta, in "La Gazza Ladra;" and as Zerlina, in "Don Giovanni." Mlle. Nilsson's most recent impersonations have been Margherita, in "Faust;" Lucia, in the opera of that name; and Violetta in "La Traviata." Of Mlle. Nilsson's performance in the two former characters we have already spoken; nor is it necessary to recur once more to her refined and, as far as that is possible, very ladylike representation of Violetta in "La Traviata"—a personage whose outward demeanour is doubtless more ladylike than her actual conduct. M. Ambroise Thomas's "Hamlet" has been for some time in rehearsal, and is to be produced to-night (Saturday).

The *Saturday Review* stated a few weeks ago that, besides "Hamlet," with Mlle. Nilsson in the principal part, there is, or was at one time, some chance of another new opera being brought out, with Madame Patti in the chief character. The work which was to have been so favoured is no other than "Mignon," also the composition of M. Ambroise Thomas, who seems for the moment to have usurped in popularity the place of M. Gounod. Another contemporary calls attention to the fact that since "Mignon" was first produced, a couple of years ago, at the Opéra Comique, with Madame Galli-Marié in the principal part, no less than three of the most distinguished prima donnas have taken a fancy to that part. Mlle. Pauline Luccka has actually played it in a version of the opera specially prepared for Germany, and fitted with a new dénouement, so as to suit the taste of the Germans—that of the original French version being too absurd for readers of Goethe's celebrated novel. Mlle. Nilsson meditates appearing as Mignon in an Italian version, to be performed this autumn at Baden-Baden; and it seems that the character of Mignon has also fascinated Madame Patti. In the operatic "Faust," Margherita is the principal personage, but Faust is also some one. In "Mignon"—the operatic "Wilhelm Meister," by the same authors as the operatic "Faust" and the operatic "Hamlet"—Wilhelm is quite a subordinate character, and all the interest is centred in the poetic figure of the heroine, who seldom recalls the Mignon of Goethe, but constantly reminds, and is intended to remind, one by her costume, her attitudes, and her general demeanour, of the really very difficult, though scarcely less charming, "Mignon" painted by Ary Scheffer.

Whatever may be done in the matter of "Mignon," it is certain that Madame Patti will appear next week as the heroine in Meyerbeer's delightful opera of "Dinorah"—a part she has not played for several years. "La Gazza Ladra," too, has been revived, with Madame Patti in the character of Ninetta; so that the greatest representative, in the present day, of the Italian school of singing will not, after all, have been quite neglected this season. As Ninetta, Madame Patti has abundant opportunities of exhibiting her high dramatic power, which is quite as remarkable as the power and charm belonging to her as a vocalist. The general cast of the opera is not all that could be wished; but Mr. Santley plays the part of Fernando (Ninetta's father) with great ability, and sings as no representative of Fernando has sung since the time of Tamburini. There is not much humour in Signor Bottero's impersonation of the Podesta; and Mlle. Grossi, who has a rich voice but a somewhat heavy style, is not very fluent in her delivery of Peppo's music.

At Mr. John Macfarren's grand Friday morning concert (St. George's Hall) the vocalists were Mesdames Liebhart, Banks, Edith Wynne, Patey, and Sainton-Dolby; Messrs. Cummings, Garcia, and Patey; the instrumentalists, Mrs. Macfarren, Mr. Benedict, and M. Sainton. Madame Sainton-Dolby sang a new song (M.S.), by Randerger. A new duet by Miss Gabriel, called "Yet once again," was contributed by Mr. and Madame Patey; and a new song by Mori, entitled "The Fairy," a pleasing composition, was effectively sung by Miss Edith Wynne. Miss Robertine Henderson introduced another novelty, called "Wishes," composed by Mr. H. Holmes. Mrs. Macfarren displayed great executive skill and much power of expression in her performance (assisted by M. Sainton) of Beethoven's duet-sonata in E flat. The same artists played also two interesting romances by Walter Macfarren; and a new duet (on motives from Der Freischütz) for two pianos, composed by Mr. Benedict, was performed by the composer in conjunction with Mrs. Macfarren.

Mr. Benedict's annual concert, announced for Wednesday next, at St. James's Hall, promises fully to support the high and special character which it has maintained for the past thirty-three years. Nearly all the great opera-singers are engaged, besides many of our best concert vocalists. The programme comprises a variety of instrumental performances—Madame Norman-Neruda making her last appearance for the season on this occasion.

The *Musical World* cites a mot of Donizetti's which to many of our readers will be new. This maestro's facility in composition is well known. He is said to have taken no more than a week to write his "Don Pasquale." One day somebody told him that Rossini had taken a fortnight to compose "Il Barbiere." "I am not surprised at it," replied Donizetti, laughing, "he is so lazy."

EXAMINATIONS IN SCIENCE BY THE SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT. The annual science examinations of the Science and Art Department were brought to a close on Saturday, May 29. This was the ninth general examination that has been held since the establishment of the system of aid to instruction in science in 1859. The examinations are superintended by local committees. They were in this way held at 437 centres this year, whilst last year they were only held at 261. At that time there were about 15,000 students under instruction, this year there were 25,000; and the number of papers worked shows a similar increase, having risen from 13,112 to 23,987. The number of candidates in the various subjects was as follows:—In geometrical drawing there were 2547, last year there were 1337; in machine drawing 2997, last year 1671; in building, construction, and naval architecture, 1993, last year 1206; in elementary mathematics 2302, last year 1390; in higher mathematics 85, last year 33; in theoretical mechanics 631, last year 353; in applied mechanics 284, last year 167; in acoustics, light, and heat 1350, last year 769; in magnetism and electricity 2480, last year 1038; in inorganic chemistry 2166, last year 964; in organic chemistry 210, last year 123; in geology 609, last year 309; in mineralogy 67, last year 38; in animal physiology 2227, last year 1182; in zoology 303, last year 298; in vegetable anatomy and physiology 144, last year 112; in systematic and economic botany 90, last year 73; in mining 48, last year 41; in metallurgy 120, last year 81; in navigation 303, last year 219; in natural astronomy 107, last year 86; in steam 148, last year 106; and in physical geography 2786, last year 1516. This is the first examination at which the scholarships of £100 per annum, founded by Mr. Whitworth, have been competed for. There have been about 120 candidates for them, and as soon as the results of all the theoretical examinations have been made known the practical examination will be proceeded with in the manner detailed in the minute of the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education.

TERRIBLE COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

FERNDALE COLLIERY, Glamorgan-shire, has again been the scene of a terribly fatal explosion. This sad event occurred on the morning of Thursday week, June 10, and has happily turned out to be a little less fatal than was at first supposed. But, as about sixty lives have been lost, the event is sufficiently appalling. The following particulars are from the *Western Mail*:—"Ferndale, a wild and picture-que spot in the Rhondda Vale, has within the brief period of two years been made the scene of two of the most fatal catastrophes which have occurred in the mining districts of Wales during the present century. Between six and seven o'clock on the morning of June 10 the colliers, of whom 600 are generally employed in the Ferndale pit, situate in the lesser Rhondda Valley, had descended to commence their daily vocation. About half an hour afterwards a vibration of the earth, followed by a faint report, was perceptible to those stationed at the mouth of the pit. Almost simultaneously with these signs, a dense volume of black dust issued from the mouth of the 'down cast' shaft, and it was immediately known by those on the bank that another calamity had visited this fated pit. Mr. Beddington, the general manager, and Mr. Davi Rees, the local manager, were instantly summoned, and a very few minutes elapsed before they were on the spot. They were joined by a number of the other officials connected with the works; and the news having spread, as such news will, thousands of men, women, and children from all the neighbourhood round flocked to the scene. The excitement was intense, not only in the locality, but throughout the whole district. As rapidly as was possible the uninjured men working in the pits were drawn to the surface. It must be understood that the Ferndale Colliery comprises three separate workings, known respectively as the Duffryn, the Rhondda, and the Blaenllecha headings. These all radiate from one shaft and are on one level. It was in the Duffryn heading that the present explosion took place. This working was uninjured in the great explosion which took place in 1867. The Duffryn heading runs in a south-westerly course towards the Rhondda Vale. The workings have extended about three quarters of a mile. It is not known at what point the explosion took place, but it is supposed to have been towards the centre; and it is conjectured that the cause was the falling of a portion of the roof and an irruption of highly inflammable gas. The men nearest the shaft, which is 280 yards deep, escaped, but those towards the other end were, unfortunately, cut off by the afterdamp. Mr. Peddington and Mr. Rees, on their arrival, promptly organised an exploring party, the colliers volunteering for the service with their customary willingness and heroism. The first party descended a little before eight o'clock, and by half-past nine ten bodies were brought to the bank. These presented no appearance of having been burnt, but apparently had suffered from the effects of the afterdamp. Calm, and with features perfectly composed, as if they had fallen asleep, they were laid by the pit mouth till eager friends recognised them, when they were tenderly borne to their now desolate homes. Relief parties were told off to continue the search, and bodies continued to be brought up till between twelve and one o'clock, at which hour forty-five bodies had been recovered. Some of these latter presented a sickening spectacle, many of them being shockingly burned. In one or two cases the features of the poor fellows were so charred as to be almost wholly unrecognisable. There was a large number of medical gentlemen on the spot. As soon as the explosion became known, messengers were dispatched on horseback to Aberaman, where the dépôt of Messrs. Davies's colliery is situated. Medical stores were at once dispatched to Ferndale. There were between 2000 and 3000 persons present. Immediately after the accident had become known many of the district clergy arrived at the scene of the catastrophe. Owing necessarily to the amount of confusion which prevailed, the details of the catastrophe are incomplete, and there is small probability that the real facts will become known for some days. Mr. Wales, the Government Inspector of Mines for this district, was in attendance shortly after the occurrence, but, so far as could be learned, he was unable to give any definite information as to the origin of the explosion. Efforts were made to obtain information as to the cause from many of the experienced men who during the day went down the pit for the purpose of directing the exploring parties, but nothing could be gleaned from them. The common report was, as we have stated above, that the explosion resulted from the fall of a portion of the roof, but none of the officials who had been down in the pit would say whether it was so or not. The gentlemen who directed the searching parties were Mr. Kerkhouse, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Hugh Begg, Mr. Caraw, and Mr. Jones. Their zeal cannot be too highly spoken of, nor can too much praise be accorded to the colliers who so bravely volunteered to engage in the perilous work of rescuing their more unfortunate fellow-labourers."

It is stated, and perhaps the fact may turn out to be the true cause of the disaster, that an unlocked safety-lamp has been found in that portion of the workings where the explosion occurred.

FORTIFICATION OF HELVELLYN AND BEN LOMOND.—It is announced that those interested in the profuse expenditure of the taxpayers' money intend to urge on the Government the fortification of Helvellyn, Ben Lomond, Macgillivuddy's Reeks, and other already impregnable natural fastnesses of this country; in other words, and apart from either just or uncertainty, the Government are to be urged to expend a further sum of money on those useless fortifications of barren rocks in the Channel Islands and of inland heights in Great Britain, which have already (thanks to the folly of Lord Palmerston and the indifferent carelessness of John Bull) absorbed about five millions of the nation's cash. Seventeen miles of fortifications are proposed to be built around Portsmouth alone. Recently a well-known M.P. was talking to a friend of the engineer who built some of these foolish "defences," and in reply to the question "Will these be of any good?" he answered, "Not the smallest in the world!" On its being remarked to the engineer that his forts would not be strong enough to bear the heavy guns manufactured for them, he replied, "You are perfectly right. I knew that before; but it was no business of mine to point out their weakness. I have taken the contract to build them according to plans and specifications, and must carry out the work accordingly." Possibly it is no business of the engineer to injure his own interests—and for a similar reason neither the military authorities nor Government employes can be expected to interfere. But it is the concern of the electors and taxpayers; and these should urge unceasingly and perseveringly upon their Parliamentary representatives the duty of protecting them from such intolerable exactions. When millions of Englishmen are suffering distress, such foolish prodigality is absolutely criminal.

AN AFRICAN TRAVELLER.—A Malta correspondent, under date of June 8, sends the following:—"Mr. Gerhard Rohlf, the African traveller, passed through Malta last week, on his return to Berlin from Alexandria. He has lately made a journey from Tripoli to Cyrenaica, and across the Desert to Egypt, some particulars of which may be of interest. Mr. Rohlf left Tripoli by ship for Benghazi on Feb. 21, and arrived there on the 27th, at four a.m. Thence he proceeded to Tolmeita and Cyrene, taking photographic views, botanising, and making topographical observations. On March 28 he returned to Benghazi, and thence, on April 3, penetrated southwards, following Hamilton's route. The country as far as Ajedabia is very fertile, but is exhausted by the over-taxation of the Turkish Government. He met with numerous caravans of slaves from Fezzan and Audjia Homb. Waddy Fareg is a sinking or depression in the Desert. The great sinking begins at the Bir Rassa, extends southwards of Cyrenaica and the Libyan plateau as far as Egypt, and is nearly everywhere from 100 ft. to 150 ft. below the level of the Mediterranean. Audjia, Djalio, and Siwa (Jupiter Ammon of the ancients) are all consequently below sea-level. It had been noticed by Cailland, as well as Aristotle, that these places were below the level of Lower Egypt. Mr. Rohlf was very kindly received by the Arabs at Siwa, which enabled him to copy the hieroglyphics of the great Temple of Agnelli, first discovered by Hamilton, while all previous travellers, from Browne to Bogle St. John, had considered the Temple of Ommu-Baida to be the chief temple. Mr. Rohlf made topographical observations of this oasis, and secured a marble figure of a ram and some coins. He proved the constant temperature of the Fountain of the Sun by means of observations taken by night and day. After a stay of eight days in this celebrated locality he bent his steps through the Desert to Alexandria. The friendly reception of Mr. Rohlf throughout his route is attributed to the good relations existing between the Egyptian and Prussian Governments. All previous travellers had been ill-treated, and Bogle St. John and Hamilton had even been fired on. Mr. Rohlf followed the great sinking as far as the well of Morhara. He states that, were a channel cut from the Syrta to this spot, Audjia and Siwa would be covered by the sea, and Cyrenaica and the Libyan plateau would form a peninsula."

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